

Gorbachov warning Latvians to defy Kremlin threats

From Anatol Lieven, Riga
and Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

LATVIA last night appeared on a collision course with Moscow after President Gorbachov reportedly rejected the republic's call for talks and threatened economic sanctions.

Latvian deputies voted for independence on Friday. More than 50 deputies, most of them ethnic Russians, did not take part in the vote.

Yesterday Mr Alfred Rubiks, the republic's pro-Moscow Communist Party leader, in a statement that has been reported by Tass, said that Mr Gorbachov had told him over the telephone that he saw no difference between the Latvian and Lithuanian declarations of independence.

Mr Gorbachov is reported to have said that there will be no discussion of Latvian independence unless the republic's parliament returns to the constitutional position before its declaration on May 4. Mr Gorbachov also apparently said that economic sanctions against Latvia were possible.

Opponents of independence appear to be preparing for a campaign of resistance to the new leadership in Riga. At the same time, the advocates of independence indicated that they would not be deterred.

The League of Work Collectives, linking managers and workers in Russian-dominated All Union factories, has announced that it will hold a strike on May 15, to protest against the independence moves. Around two-thirds of the republic's industrial workforce is estimated to be non-Latvian.

On Wednesday the anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany is to be celebrated in Riga with a military parade. Soviet loyalist groups have announced that they will hold rallies to mark the day.

Mr Gorbachov's message

may also weaken the standing of Mr Anatol Gorbunov, the Latvian President. A Popular Front official admitted privately that it was likely to strengthen the hand of radical nationalists within the Front. Many of these were unhappy with the declaration's establishment of an unspecified "transition period" to full independence, and would have preferred an outright declaration of full sovereignty.

Popular Front members in Latvia have been surprised by the speed and harshness of Mr Gorbachov's response. However, Dr Peter Lakis, a leading deputy, said he still hoped that Mr Gorbachov's position "will not be so hard". He thought the message "may have included Mr Rubiks's personal interpretation", as an attempt to harden the Kremlin's response.

Mr Lakis said: "We know the situation this summer will in any case be very hard, maybe critical. But we have no other way because, after six months, the situation in the Soviet Union will also be critical and there is no future for us there."

Mr Gorbunov said yesterday that in his view, the door has not been shut to dialogue.

It was still not clear whether the basic words reported by Mr Rubiks were a last-minute attempt either by the Kremlin or the Latvian Communist Party to slow progress towards independence, or whether they were the Kremlin's considered — and remarkably swift — response.

Assuming the latter, it appears either that the Latvian declaration has been misinterpreted, or, more likely, that Moscow will recognize no course towards secession from the Soviet Union that does not begin with a formal statement of intention that the republic intends to invoke the new Soviet law on secession.

This would involve a statement of intent by the republic's parliament to hold a referendum on the results by the full soviet parliament, the congress of people's deputies, then negotiations on a transitional period of up to five years.

Even then, secession would only be finalized by a further vote in the congress of people's deputies in which deputies from the Russian federation hold an absolute majority.



Mr Rubiks: Talked to President Gorbachov



Pounding the beat: Police joined 3,400 people in a mass tap dance for charity in Croydon, south London, one of many Telethon holiday events

Holiday grinds to a halt

By David Sapsted

CLOGGED roads, a rash of burglaries and the unofficial start of the acid house party season marked a typical Bank holiday weekend yesterday. Forecasters said last night, however, that the Mediterranean-style weather has temporarily had its day.

It was the South-east which had the best of the sun yesterday with jans at many resorts, the worst being a 30-mile tailback on the M2 in Kent after a series of minor accidents. There were also long delays at RAF Heyford in Oxfordshire as crowds headed for an air show, on the M6 in Lancashire, and on roads leading to resorts in west Wales and the south coast.

Police in East Sussex closed roads to Camber Sands near Rye to prevent overcrowding, while routes to Selsey and Wittering in West Sussex were completely blocked. "It was a very good day for enjoying the sun in your back garden," the AA said.

Although some resorts said sunseekers began heading home on Saturday, the police, who deployed

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League criticized over Bournemouth violence

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

THE Football League was criticized yesterday for failing to change the date of the Bournemouth-Leeds United match, which on Saturday produced the worst outbreak of hooliganism this season and the arrest of 73 supporters.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, was urged to supervise the Football League fixture list because of a spate of violence only five weeks before the start of the World Cup, when the behaviour of the England supporters will decide whether English clubs return to European competitions next season.

On a Bank Holiday weekend during which there were serious incidents at 18 matches, leading to more than 320 arrests across England and Wales, violence erupted sporadically for almost 36 hours in Bournemouth. Leeds followers attacked rival fans, passers-by, and police before marking their Second Division championship victory by burning hundreds of deckchairs on the beach.

The police, who deployed

900 officers to cope with the hooliganism, at a cost, largely borne by the tax-payer, of £100,000, had warned the League last June when the fixtures were published of the inadvisability of the notorious Leeds supporters visiting a holiday resort on a Bank Holiday weekend.

Police requests for a re-arrangement became more urgent when the game gained in significance. Leeds were seeking to return to the First Division and Bournemouth to avoid relegation.

Mr Alan Rose, the Deputy Chief Constable of Dorset, said: "You cannot ban games. That would be giving into the hooligans. However, the Football League must take more notice of senior police officers who have hard intelligence that there will be problems."

The League had insisted that, for the sake of fairness, all closing fixtures should be held simultaneously.

Mr Rose added: "After Hillsborough, I would have thought that safety is more important than the integrity of the Second Division Championship."

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Inquiry prospects, page 25

Way 'clear' for German unification

By Our Foreign Staff

HERR Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, said yesterday that nothing now stood in the way of the Germans' "longing to be united".

The four Second World War allies and the two Germanies agreed at Saturday's talks in Bonn, West Germany, that German unification should go ahead without delay. Herr Kohl said: "There are no more obstacles to the realization of the right of self-determination of all Germans."

The question of Germany's security status still has to be resolved, however. The Soviet Union objects to a united Germany being a member of Nato but, according to diplomatic sources, the British, French and American foreign ministers agreed to help Moscow resolve its concerns about German unity.

West Germany also plans to reassure the Soviet Union that a reunified country will honour and improve economic links between East Germany and Moscow.

Guarantees demand, page 8

FEATURES

Hallmarks of a lady

A charity set up to help Ladies in Reduced Circumstances is short of candidates in need. But what is meant by the term "lady" in Britain today? Alexandra King investigates. Page 15

More than an animal show



If you go down to the zoo today... you will discover that the work may be as much about conserving endangered species, such as the giant panda, as giving visitors access to creatures from around the world. London Zoo, a Special Report. Pages 17-19

The age of the bad loser

Some losers in last week's council elections reacted in defeat with something less than traditional good will. Libby Purves wonders whether this is evidence of a new social trend. Page 15

Open door for older students

Oxford University has decided to increase student numbers over the next 10 years. But almost all the new places will go to mature students. Page 21

SPORT



Anyone for Badminton?

Nicola McIlvaine won the Badminton Horse Trials yesterday on Middle Road. A full report appears on Page 25, the first of nine pages covering the sports events of the Bank holiday weekend. These include the Benson & Hedges international golf at St Mellion, the Pilkington Cup rugby final at Twickenham and the New Zealand cricket team's first match of their summer tour at Arundel.

INSIDE

Luce seeks heritage cash

Mr Richard Luce, the Arts Minister, is seeking a big increase in funds for the National Heritage Memorial Fund in an attempt to preserve more art works and national treasures for British art lovers. Page 3

Ulster talks

The prospect of inter-party talks on the government of Ulster improved when Unionist leaders responded warmly to a Government statement that it would be prepared to consider replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Page 2

Computer crime

The computer crime division of the fraud squad is planning a nationwide study into computer misuse in an attempt to secure more powers for the police. Page 5

Train blast

A suspected bomb exploded in the first-class car of a Pakistani express passenger train outside Lahore yesterday, killing at least 12 people and injuring 41. Page 7

Interest rates

Finance ministers from the leading industrial nations agreed in Washington that interest rates should remain high to combat strong inflationary pressures around the world. Page 36

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MPs dampen Baker's optimism over poll tax

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

AS MR Kenneth Baker yesterday insisted that the local government election results showed that the Conservative Party was recovering support, backbench MPs sought to dampen his optimism and warned of the political damage caused by the poll tax.

With Mr Michael Heseltine due to outline later this week his ideas on how the tax can be changed, several Conservative MPs cautioned against the belief that the results had vindicated the poll tax.

MPs with seats in the provinces where Labour did well advised the Government against believing that its victories in the London boroughs of Wandsworth and Westminster had eased electoral problems caused by the tax.

But Mr Baker, party chair-

man, said the elections showed that the Conservatives had stopped the ebbing tide and were on the road back, although he admitted that the results had been patchy. "There is a heck of a lot to do. I can assure you there will be no complacency. I recognize the task ahead."

He said that since Christmas there had been a period of "extraordinary hysteria" which had developed on the basis that the party and Mrs Thatcher were finished.

Speaking on the BBC 1 *On the Record* programme, he said he hoped the leadership issue was now resolved, adding that a change was neither necessary nor appropriate.

Although the Conservative hierarchy believes the election results have strengthened Mrs

Thatcher's position, several MPs urged her to listen to the provincial voters.

Mr Garry Waller, MP for Keighley, told Mrs Thatcher to listen to the people if Conservatives were to stand a chance of winning an election in either 1991 or 1992.

The controversy over the poll tax will revive later this week when Mr Heseltine gives his views on how it should be changed. "What I will be looking at is to form a constructive way forward," he said yesterday.

Mr Peter Walker, the former Secretary of State for Wales, predicted that the review of the tax would not produce major changes.

Ingham letter, page 2
Latest polls, page 2

Joseph chides Thatcher

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

LORD Joseph, one of the Prime Minister's most loyal former colleagues, today criticizes her over the speedy introduction of the poll tax and for allowing inflation to revive. He says that, with hindsight, she should have replaced Mr Nigel Lawson before the Chancellor of the Exchequer resigned last year.

Lord Joseph, who, as Sir Keith Joseph, co-founded the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies with Mrs Thatcher, says the Government introduced the poll tax without identifying and eliminating its snares, and now faces a dilemma in resolving its difficulties.

Another term, page 10

why is it called a bank holiday?

why not a supermarket holiday, or a chipshop holiday, or a post office holiday?

we're not on holiday.

Phone changes put social cachet on the line

By Della Matthews

FOUR and a half million telephone subscribers in London woke yesterday to a divided city with the advent of the new dialling codes for the capital — 071 for central London and 081 for outer areas. They also found themselves at the centre of a new social phenomenon.

Where one lives will matter more than ever. The new area codes will draw a line around an area of central London from Fulham to Canary Wharf and from Brixton to Kentish Town. The 071 code means fashionable, inner city, cosmopolitan and definitely up and coming, if not already arrived, while the 081 code is equated with anonymous suburbia.

Mr Harold Brooks Baker, publishing editor of *Burke's Peerage*, said many of his clients given 081 codes

were "shattered" by the changeover. "The new rich do care a lot about this sort of thing," he said.

All is not lost, however, for those who have been consigned to the sidelines of London life. They can escape social suicide by paying £1,915 plus VAT to have their code changed. Mr Brooks Baker said several of his clients planned to do so. Estate agents have claimed that having the right code could add several thousand pounds to the value of property.

Nowhere is the situation more polarized than along Swains Lane, a leafy, winding street in Highgate, north London, where on one side of the road residents fall within inner London's 071 area, while neighbours opposite them are 081.

Mrs Janet Wegner, an 071 journalist, said: "I haven't met anyone who hasn't laughed about it. It's a funny

switch. By having an 071 number we're going up the snobbery scale."

Across the road, Mr Anthony Gibson, aged 33, who works in advertising, said the alleged effect on property prices was an estate agents' gimmick. He would not pay good money for an 071 code. "I'm very happy being an 081-er."

Mr Bob Bell, who is retired, has a trendy 071 code. "What difference does a telephone number make? I'm too old to be trendy."

The changeover went smoothly when from midnight a team of 800 engineers started the big switch-off, converting 750 exchanges in London and 50 trunk exchanges. Because of the low volume of calls, the Bank holiday weekend was deliberately chosen to usher in the greatest change in codes since WHI for Whitehall was abolished. The two-year operation has

cost an estimated £30 million with at least £5 million in advertising alone.

Some would question whether it has been money well spent, judging by the bewildered look in many offices. Even the Princess of Wales has expressed total ignorance of the new number for Kensington Palace.

British Telecom admits the big test will come tomorrow morning when London grows back to life. The scope for chaos is immense, with an average 20 million calls in any working day. BT can handle 50,000 recorded announcements a minute to tell people they have misdialled, but the organization hopes that will not be necessary. "We do not subscribe to the talk of gloom and doom," it said optimistically.

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first direct is a division of midland bank plc.

PR 'minders' vetoed after Ingham intervenes

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

A PROPOSAL to improve the image of three Cabinet ministers by providing them with personal public relations advisers was abandoned after complaints from information officers in Whitehall led to the intervention of the Prime Minister's press secretary.

Mr Bernard Ingham moved swiftly on learning from a newspaper report of the proposal. In a telephone call to Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, Mr Ingham said the idea was seen as an "insult to the Government Information Service".

Mr Ingham, as head of the service, acted after calls from a

number of heads of information in government departments last Monday expressing concern at the idea to provide advisers for Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, and Mr John MacGregor, the Secretary of State for Education.

Mr Ingham said yesterday he had no idea how a letter he sent to senior civil servants in the service which gave details of his conversation with Mr Baker had been leaked. He added that he had nothing to do with the idea being abandoned and that ministers were free to appoint special advisers if they wished. The letter, however, reveals the power that Mr Ingham wields in this area. The plan

emerged after a dinner hosted by Mr Baker, attended by public relations and advertising executives. Mr Waddington was to receive advice from Mr Tim Bell, a former director of Saatchi and Saatchi; Mr MacGregor was to have the services of Mr Robin Wright, the chairman of Wight Collins Rutherford and Scott; and Mr Clarke's "minder" was to be Mr John Banks, chairman of Young and Rubicam.

Mr Ingham's letter said: "As head of the Government Information Service I telephoned Mr Kenneth Baker, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, this morning about the reported appointment of public relations advisers to three Cabinet ministers: Home Secretary

— Tim Bell; Kenneth Clarke — John Banks; John MacGregor — Robin Wright.

"I said I was doing so in response to serious concern which had been expressed to me by heads of information, especially as there seemed to be the possibility of further appointments.

"I said we needed to deal with this issue immediately in order to prevent damage to the GIS. The announcement of the appointments, made without any consultation with the heads of information concerned, was seen as a grave reflection on the competence of the GIS — indeed as an insult to it.

"The GIS had and, I was sure, would continue to do its level best

for the government of the day. But it was inevitably getting a lot of flak these days and this kind of episode would be damaging to its morale unless there was proper consultation and explanation. It was absolutely essential that ministers and Messrs Bell, Banks and Wright handled the GIS with kid gloves, given the circumstances of their appointment.

"Mr Baker regretted the publicity and said no announcement had been made. It had leaked out.

"He was sorry if it was felt the appointments had become public, reflected on the competence of the GIS. That had not been the intention and it did

not reflect the view in which the GIS was held.

"I said that we need to dispel that impression immediately. I asked him to make it clear to all inquirers — and to the GIS — that these were party appointments and did not and were not intended to reflect upon the competence and abilities of the GIS. Mr Baker agreed to do this.

"I strongly urge you to communicate these sentiments to your Permanent Secretaries and to deploy them as necessary with your ministers."

Within days of Mr Ingham's conversation and letter, the scheme was abandoned and it emerged that both ministers and Downing Street were unhappy with it.

Labour lead cut by 7% in week

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

LABOUR'S lead over the Conservatives has dropped by 7 per cent in a week, according to an opinion poll taken after the local government elections, in which Labour won 303 seats.

However the poll highlights Mrs Thatcher's unpopularity, with 64 per cent of those questioned wanting her to step down as Conservative party leader before the next General Election.

On the other hand a survey by *The Independent* on Sunday of 100 Tory MPs shows that her authority within the party has been strengthened by the Conservatives' showing in the local elections. Only 16 per cent of Conservative backbench MPs questioned wanted her to retire before the General Election, compared with 24 per cent in March. 70 said they wanted her to stay on and 72 said the election results had strengthened her hand.

The NOP poll, published in yesterday's *The Mail on Sunday*, shows Labour's lead cut from 20 per cent to 13 per cent in a week. Labour has 47 per cent, the Conservatives 34 per cent, the Liberal Democrats 8 per cent, the Greens 4 per cent, the Social Democrats 3 per cent, the Nationalists 3 per cent and Others 1 per cent.

Sixty four per cent believe Mrs Thatcher should stand down as Conservative party leader before the next General Election, with only 30 per cent thinking she should stay on. Almost half, 48 per cent, believe the Conservatives would have done better in the local government elections if Mrs Thatcher had not been leading the party.

However the poll, conducted among 1,082 voters in 54 constituencies last Friday, shows that the prospect of Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Secretary of State for Defence, replacing Mrs Thatcher makes little difference to voters: 66 per cent said Mr Heseltine's leadership would have no effect on their voting intention, 18 per cent said they would be more likely to vote Conservative, and 11 per cent less likely.

As for the poll tax, 33 per cent would be more likely to vote Conservative if the tax was scrapped, and 27 per cent if the bills were reduced. But 61 per cent said scrapping it would make no difference.

The Labour leadership is being urged to put additional resources into the party in London after its patchy showing in the local elections. Mrs Glensy Thornton, chairman of the London Labour party, yesterday reiterated her support for the appointment of a campaign manager. "My strategy paper said there should be a campaign manager. But it really was saying that more resources were needed for London. We will be looking at what needs to be done as we analyse the results from the local elections."

Mr Peter Mandelson, the director of communications, said no decisions would be taken until after the analysis.

A paper recommending changes was sent to the Labour leadership before the local elections as part of attempts to improve the party's image and position in London and ensure that the capital does not damage its overall performance. The party leadership is contrasting the success in boroughs like Islington and Haringey with its failure in west London which it blames on demographic changes, poor organisation and bad political decision-making.

But Mr Tony Banks, chairman of the London Labour group of MPs, said a difficulty facing the party was there was nothing consistent in the results in London. He said that sometimes the party in the capital was not aware enough of the fact that it operated in a "political goldfish" and needed to be careful to avoid political minefields.

FOOTBALL VIOLENCE

Season ends on a tide of uproar and arrests

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE first of more than 70 football supporters arrested by police during violence at Bournemouth appeared before the town's magistrates yesterday as the last full weekend of the football league season ended with trouble at 18 matches leading to more than 320 arrests.

Police were faced with problems as far apart as Bognor Regis, Aldershot, Birmingham, Cambridge, Shrewsbury, Sheffield, Halifax and Leicester. At Chesterfield, Derbyshire, where 30 arrests were made as 1,000 Grimsby Town supporters invaded the pitch, police afterwards talked of the possible need to put up fencing again. The thought was echoed by a senior local politician in Birmingham where there were two pitch invasions and 15 arrests during the match between Birmingham City and Reading.

But Bournemouth, Dorset, was the scene of the worst trouble, surrounding a crucial Division Two match between Bournemouth and Leeds United. At the end of a violent two days, the county may face £100,000 in extra policing bills

as 900 officers, including reinforcements from five counties and London mounted officers, were called in. Magistrates yesterday fined fans arrested for drunkenness and public order offences.

Another, accused of causing serious bodily harm to a police inspector, was bailed with a condition that he stay away from league or international football matches. The defendant aged 21 was also ordered to leave Dorset, and report to Rotherham police on Saturday afternoons.

Thousands of pounds of damage was done to shops and property in Bournemouth and 20 people were taken to hospital including seven police officers. When supplies of drink were halted as public houses and bars closed, Leeds United supporters were reported commandeering taxis to go to neighbouring towns for more supplies.

The problems began in Bournemouth on Friday night and continued through the weekend. Drunken football supporters molested women. In the hours leading up to kick-off, between 2,000 and 3,000 Leeds fans joined up to march on the Bournemouth ground.

Supt Leslie Burns said Leeds supporters were notorious for arriving late at a ground and forcing police to lead them in and that this group had arrived early in the hope of catching police with their guard down.

Police in riot gear managed to force the back, but then violence erupted. "There was the horrific sight of genuine football supporters caught between stone-throwing fans and police," Mr Burns said. "If these fans had forced their way into the stadium I dread to think what the consequences would have been. I think we would perhaps have seen another Hillsborough."

The ground at Bournemouth has a capacity of 11,300 and only 2,300 tickets were allocated to away

supporters. Police estimate that up to 4,000 supporters travelled without tickets.

More than 1,000 Leeds supporters, who stayed in the town after the game, staged a beach party using hundreds of deck chairs as fuel for their fires. Yesterday, Chief Supt Richard Daubney, commander of the division covering Bournemouth, said offences included looting, an arson attack on the town's pier and criminal damage.

Violence also flared on Saturday in Bognor Regis, West Sussex, when 100 football supporters besieged the pier after the Portsmouth-Barnsley match. In Halifax, police arrested 22 people during disturbances at the West Yorkshire side's game against Stockport County. There were 36 arrests during Sheffield United's Second Division promotion game at Leicester.

In Sheffield one police officer was slightly injured and at least 24 fans were arrested during troubles which flared at Sheffield Wednesday's 3-0 home defeat against Nottingham Forest; 20 were arrested at Hillsborough.

Thirty-four Burnley fans were arrested after trouble erupted in Cambridge when a stone was thrown at their coach on the journey back from their team's away win at Colchester.

In London there were arrests at four first division games, although supporters were, on the whole, "incredibly well behaved", Scotland Yard said. The worst trouble was at Millwall's match against Chelsea where 19 arrests were made. There were four arrests in Tottenham and 16 at Upton Park where West Ham beat Wolves.

In Hampshire fans staged two pitch invasions at Aldershot where the home team was beaten by Cambridge. A total of 23 fans were either arrested or ejected from the ground.

Leading article, page 11

Whitehall union fears left control

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

EXTREME left wing union activists are launching a determined attempt to take control of three of Britain's largest civil service unions in a move which could cause confrontation in Whitehall and disrupt community charge legislation.

The extremists, who have grouped under a broad-left banner to fight for control of the executive of the Civil and Public Services Union, have said they would instruct members to refuse to carry out statutory duties.

Moderate leaders of that union fear that a low turnout in a postal ballot to elect a new executive could favour extreme left wing candidates, who regard the union as the "jewel in the crown".

Indications so far are that no more than 24 per cent of the union's 145,000 members have filled in their voting forms.

Although the moderate leadership has made substantial headway in improving pay rates since it took control 14 months ago, thousands of

union members still earn between only £6,000-£7,000 a year, providing the left with a fertile source of discontent. Mr John Ellis, the union's general secretary, believes the union election could be made more representative if the Government allowed people to register their workplace as their "home address".

The union knows the home addresses of about 85,000 of members which effectively leaves thousands disenfranchised. Mr Ellis said that if militant gained control, it could attempt to take over the Council of Civil Service Unions and gain a foothold in the heart of the Government's administrative machinery.

The National Union of Civil and Public Servants, which has 120,000 members, could also lurch to the left with its candidates, including six communists, predicting that their year-long campaign will give them control of the union's 40-strong executive. The results of the two elections, which will be known later this month, could have an important bearing on a proposed merger of the unions.

Nalgo, the town hall workers' union, is also facing a hard-left challenge, with Mr Roger Bannister, a militant supporter, running for the post of general secretary. Mr John Smith, the Shadow Chancellor, in an interview with *The Independent* on Sunday, appears to have abandoned the Labour Party's past commitments to full employment, saying employers and workers had to realize that once Britain was in the European Monetary System, devaluation of the pound to pay for wage increases was no longer an option. He ruled out an incomes policy and said unions could destroy jobs if they pushed wage claims too hard.



A 7lb salmon caught in a fishery trap at Molesey Weir on the Thames at Hampton Court yesterday being examined by Mr Peter Gough, a scientist for the National Rivers Authority, before being released to continue its journey upstream

to spawn. The 27-inch salmon is the second to be caught in a trap this year. Normally salmon do not return from the Atlantic to spawn until June. The catches are a sign of the success of a programme to clean and restock the Thames. In 1988 some 320 salmon returned to spawn. Last year, however, high water temperatures caused the number to drop to 120. As many as 600 salmon are expected to return to spawn this year if temperatures do not rise.

Inquiry on explosives 'catches'

CLAIMS that explosives and detonators have been hauled up by Scottish fishermen in the Clyde estuary are to be investigated, the Government said yesterday.

A report in *The Mail on Sunday* said the material was brought up in busy fishing grounds by prawn fishermen 10 miles from where it had been legally dumped in the estuary. The report said a knock could trigger a blast.

The newspaper said the material was tipped by ICI, the chemical company, in hessian sacks which quickly disintegrated. The Scottish Office said it would be investigating the claims.

It had no knowledge of explosives being picked up but would welcome information from fishermen. "Meanwhile, we advise fishermen not to fish over the dumping ground or pick up suspect material," ICI confirmed that its Nobel Explosives Company had legally disposed of explosives and detonators in a designated zone in the estuary.

That disposal method had ceased last year and the company now burn the waste, a spokesman added. He emphasized there was no immediate danger to people walking or swimming in the area as the materials had been trawled up from the seabed.

"We are extremely concerned that material has been found by fishermen and an immediate investigation is under way. This is the first report we have had of material being found, especially outside the designated area, which is known to mariners and all the relevant authorities," the spokesman said.

Unionist reply lifts chance of Ulster inter-party talks

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

THE prospect of inter-party talks on new arrangements for the government of Northern Ireland improved significantly this weekend with a warm response from Unionist leaders to a statement by the Government that it would be prepared to consider replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said he "accepted generously" an open letter to him from Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, which said that the Government would give serious consideration to any implications for the agreement that possible future arrangements agreed by the parties might have.

Mr Brooke's letter also included the most unequivocal commitment yet by the Government to examine alternatives to the present treaty. "I confirm that in the context of these discussions we would also consider any proposal (including any proposal for an alternative to the agreement) you or other parties may put forward which would advance the underlying objectives I believe we all share," he wrote.

Mr Moynihan's response makes it certain that he and Mr Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, will now go back — possibly before the end of this week — for a further round of exploratory talks with Mr Brooke.

Mr Moynihan said, however, that the concession was only the first of three big hurdles to be overcome on the way to talks. Debate would now focus, he said, on the

Anglo-Irish conference so that we can engage in meaningful chatter while the jai-lers take their holidays.

Even more difficult will be the question of the secretariat, the suspension of which both Dublin and the SDLP appear unlikely ever to accept. The SDLP is happy to use gaps between conferences but is concerned that any alteration of the operation or status of the secretariat would give the impression that the agreement itself had been suspended.

At this stage, the problem of the secretariat looks insurmountable without a significant shift by the Unionists to overcome it. That this is required bolsters the considerable scepticism among nationalist observers and in Irish government circles that Mr Moynihan and Mr Paisley are sincere in their desire for talks.

Mr Jack Lynch, the former Irish prime minister, yesterday backed a campaign for the Republic to drop its claim to territorial jurisdiction over Northern Ireland. He told a seminar in Dublin that consideration should be given to amending its 1937 constitution, which lays claim to jurisdiction over the North. He said that if the IRA could claim legitimacy for its terror campaign because of the jurisdiction provision, it should be deprived of that support.

A soldier hit in the head by IRA gunfire while on patrol near Cullyhanna, Co Armagh, died on Saturday night. Army said yesterday, Lance Sergeant Graham Alexander Stewart, a single man, aged 25, from Perth, was in the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards.

Blue logo signals bright new image for Yard

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

SCOTLAND Yard is about to launch a new logo designed by the dozen of British corporate image-makers to grace police vehicles and buildings in the 1990s.

The blue and white logo will be officially launched next month on the cover of the annual report, prepared by Sir Peter Imbert, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. The logo will then begin to appear on police cars, vans and buildings.

The logo is to be adopted on the recommendation of the Wolff Olins company, which won the £150,000 contract to improve the image of the Metropolitan Police. Part of the Yard's Plus programme aimed at rebuilding its corporate identity, the logo may not reach the imaginative heights of the Bovis hummingbird symbol, but it has



Distinctive emblem to do away with anonymity

the imprimatur of Sir Colin Cole, Garter Principal, who designed its armorial predecessor, which is now 20 years old and described by an unkind Yard critic as "inarticulate but cryptic".

The replacement is said to symbolize the changes taking place in the force, as well as its continuing traditions. It will

for the first time, identify Metropolitan Police vehicles clearly. Up to now they have borne the initials "M.P.", or nothing at all apart from a coat of arms. In their report, the Wolff Olins staff had pointed out that the symbols of the force were "confusing and incoherent" and too varied.

The appearance of the logo will not mean the end of the traditional blue lamp outside police stations or the badge on officers' helmets. Nor will the colour of police cars be changed to reflect the bright new image. In an unusual show of unanimity, chief constables throughout the country are generally agreed on traditional values.

The image-makers and the designers however have not finished. The next step could be an enlightening colour scheme for police station reception areas. So far there are no clues as to what will

replace such old favourites as Deadened Chocolate, Very Awful Green and Bored Cream. But then, researchers have recently discovered that police cars painted in a strong shade of pink calm aggression and anger.

The number of graduates within police ranks has risen from a mere 168 in 1968 to 6,625 in 1988, but wastage is double the level for non-graduates, according to a new report on police recruitment published today by the University of Manchester.

At the other end of the scale the research, by the university's school of education, shows that the number of recruits accepted with no O-levels or GCSE passes but who have passed basic recruitment tests, has dropped over the same period from half of all recruits to less than one in eight.

The research into English and Welsh forces shows that

the numbers of graduates have increased in 20 years from 0.1 per cent in 1968 to 5.4 per cent in 1988. At the senior command level, from superintendent and above, the number had risen from 7 per cent to 30 per cent; the number of constables with degrees had risen from 0.7 per cent in 1978 to 4.5 per cent in 1988.

Overall, the report concludes, the police are 50 times better educated than they were 20 years ago. However, the wastage rate among graduates of 2.8 per cent is over double the 1.3 per cent among non-graduates; they cite "lack of prospects" as the reason.

They insist that a new mile from the city centre on that they call a "megamile" that traffic jams affect Dilton Meadows than 20 of the university

Prisoners protest on roof

Eight prisoners from an isolation unit of Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, staged a protest on the roof last night. The men, who are all believed to be HIV positive, were protesting at lack of medical facilities in the unit.

Negotiators from the Department of Justice were called in. A police spokesman said last night: "We believe the incident will end during the night without any problems."

On the mend

Stephen Hollis, aged three, Britain's youngest heart and lung transplant patient, is out of intensive care. Stephen, of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, has been moved to the main children's ward at Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds, after making good progress following surgery on April 29.

Gas link agreed

A 140-mile natural gas pipeline from Morecambe Bay to Dublin, expected to cost at least £125 million, has been approved by the EC, which has pledged grant aid of £100 million towards the project. Ireland's natural gas supplies are expected to be exhausted by 2002.

Trust attacked

The National Trust was yesterday accused of creating an eyesore after it painted the house in Cockermouth, Cumbria, where the poet William Wordsworth was born, the colour of soil to make it look more authentic. The trust said: "Wordsworth did not like houses painted white."

Haringey result

The result of Thursday's local election in the London borough of Haringey, declared on Saturday, was:

Lab no change; Lab gained 3 from C, 1 from UDEM, C gain 1 from Lab. New council: Lab 42, C 17.

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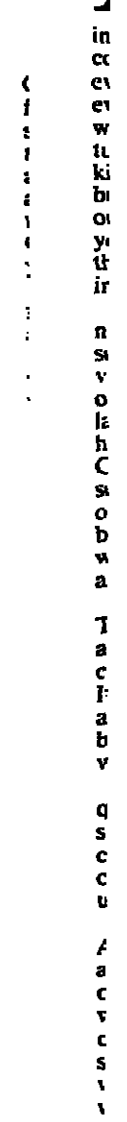
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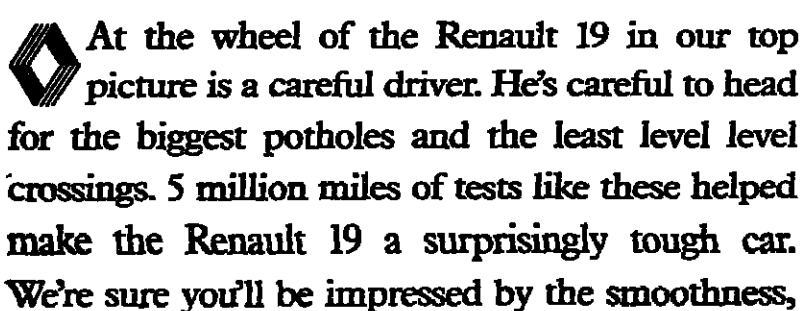
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**Polic
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badly**

THE police have been alerted to a number of computer-related crimes. Several months ago, a New York City office of computer crime investigators informed the FBI that a computer virus had been spread to the FBI's own files, leading to the release of sensitive information. The FBI is now working to identify the person or persons responsible for the attack. The FBI is also working to identify the person or persons responsible for the attack. The FBI is also working to identify the person or persons responsible for the attack.

Discretion
of courts
'too wide'

By Quentin Q. A. J.
Home Affairs
Commissioner

GOVERNMENT
persuaded that
fewer prisoners
more dangerous
are "hardcore."
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A DONATION of £10,000 from the London Zoo is helping to conserve a rare mammal such as the dormouse.

The zoo will use the money to relaunch the Clore Programme for small mammals. The rarest small mammal, the dormouse, is the "star" of the programme.

The Clore Programme, which was created in 1972, has received a donation of £220,000 from the late Sir Charles Clore.

The money will be used to fund field work for many years. It will also fund a mammal exhibit designed to attract visitors from the Clore Foundation.

The Clore Foundation was set up by Mrs Vivien Duffield, daughter of Sir Charles, in 1974.

It is a charity devoted to the study of keeping and showing small mammals but has gone through a change over the past 20 years.

At first, the zoo would like to see more mammals, and education for the public, as its main aims.

As a result of the Clore donation, the zoo will be able to develop its programme of captive breeding of mammals and other

مَكْذُومٌ الْأَهْلُ

Police claim computer fraud Bill badly flawed

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THE computer crime division of the fraud squad is planning a nationwide study of computer misuse in an attempt to secure more powers.

New laws covering misuse of computers for fraud or blackmail and by disgruntled former employees, are expected in the summer. They follow the successful third reading in the House of Commons on Friday of the computer misuse Bill which has been introduced by Mr Michael Colvin, Conservative MP for Romsey and Waterside.

Senior police officers claim, however, that the Bill is seriously flawed, depriving the police of fundamental powers needed to catch criminals. MPs have failed to understand the nature of computer crime, they believe.

Det Supt Barry Donovan, of the Computer Crime Unit at Scotland Yard, said the Bill was excellent in creating three new crimes "but is sadly lacking in giving us any chance of enforcing them". One of the several crucial areas in which the Bill fails is in monitoring and surveillance of suspected criminals, he said.

"Hackers" break into data bases down telephone lines rather than by walking into a building. Under the proposed legislation monitoring will require the consent of the victim and the goodwill of British Telecom.

Hackers, however, often rove across the telephone network penetrating a computer and moving on in minutes. Thus, identifying victims may prove impossible without telephone taps, even if police identify a suspect.

Mr Donovan said: "There are people who tell us about hackers in the same way that there are people who tell us of robbers. In the case of robbers we mount a surveil-

lance of the suspect but the law does not allow us to tap the telephone line."

Ministers have suggested the police can secure warrants from the Home Secretary under the Interception of Telecommunications Act 1985. Mr Donovan, however, said this was not acceptable for computer crime because evidence is gathered in secret and is inadmissible in court.

Mr Donovan's concerns were echoed by Miss Emma Nicholson, Conservative MP for Devon West and Torridge, and one of the Bill's sponsors.

"The 1985 Act has been designed for the security services of MI5 and MI6 and as such covers issues of national security. It is wholly inappropriate for normal police matters," she said.

"The police are publicly accountable. They should be given the right to seek warrants from a magistrate so that monitoring hackers is not seen as some shadowy activity linked with spying but part of the normal work of a publicly accountable body."

Mr Donovan said that even in cases where a victim can be identified, British Telecom's assistance was less than assured. "We have three cases going back to the beginning of February in which we have made repeated requests for assistance."

"I have sent a number of letters but have not even had a response." He thought concern over costs might be the problem.

Another problem centres on powers to search for evidence - a particular difficulty in catching creators of computer viruses. People who write rogue programmes that can at preset times delete data files and damage a computer's memory, spread the "disease" via software discs. The number of new "viruses" has risen by 700 per cent since last year, according to one survey.

Mr Donovan said the police will not have the powers to search a suspect's premises. "It has been suggested that we can use our powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. I am effectively being invited to arrest someone on the flimsiest of evidence in order to have a power of search," he said.

That was likely to lead to an increase in needless arrests. "We are saying this is wrong. We need a power of search in order to get the evidence to make an arrest," he said.

Mr Donovan added that the level of recorded computer crime had risen sharply from last year. As many crimes were reported to the squad in the first four months of 1990 as were reported in the whole of 1989.

He said it was hoped that a national survey would allow police to compile accurate and persuasive figures on the level of these crimes. The evidence would be presented to ministers in an attempt to secure more powers.



Skibo Castle, pictured above, which was owned by the family of Mr Andrew Carnegie, the philanthropist, for more than 80 years, is on sale for £3.98 million. It is considered one of Scotland's finest castles, dating from about 1200. It was transformed into one of the grandest houses of this century in 1898 by Mr Carnegie, who made his fortune in steel. Politicians, writers, statesmen and the Royal Family were entertained there. Skibo stands amid 7,000 acres of land in the highlands of Sutherland, overlooking its own loch. In Mr Carnegie's days the castle had a private golf course.

The castle was bought by him from the Royal Bank of Scotland after the previous owner ran into financial difficulties. He added a massive west wing, decorated with panelling and silk wallpapers. After his death in 1919 it passed to his widow Louise, and then to their only child, Mrs Margaret Carnegie Miller, who used it as her summer residence until 1980.

Until recently, when it was sold to the

Globe Investment Trust, Skibo was the private home of a businessman. The estate is for sale through Edinburgh agents John Clegg & Co.

The castle has vast accommodation. In addition to the great hall, seven reception rooms and 11 main bedroom suites, it has over 100 other rooms. The purchase is considered ideal for the sportsman, with fishing, deer stalking, grouse and pheasant shooting, sailing and hill walking all within easy access.

Big variations in approaches to sentencing

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

STARTLING disparities in sentences imposed by courts of different countries for crimes including rape and armed robbery are shown in the preliminary findings of a new international survey of sentencing practice.

The survey, by the International Bar Association, shows that huge differences of approach to serious crimes can exist between such countries as Norway or the Irish Republic, compared with England.

In response to a question on rape, outlining a hypothetical crime, the survey shows the likely sentence in England would be seven to 10 years. However, in Ireland it would have been 18 months; in Denmark two to three years; and in The Netherlands, Norway and Tanzania, three to five years.

Sentences for armed robbery ranged from 10 to 12 years in England; 10 to 15 years in Scotland; two years in Norway; five years in Ireland; and four to six years in The Netherlands. The likely Tanzanian penalty would be 15 years.

Each country was given the same set of circumstances. The rapist was a man aged 27

who attacked a girl of 16, standing alone late one evening at a bus-stop. He dragged her to a car park, punched her, threatened her with a knife and raped her. The man had a history of "minor sexual offences" and had served a previous sentence of three months in prison.

In the armed robbery case, the convicted offender, aged 19 and unemployed, had taken part in an armed bank raid. The raiders escaped with £800,000 but were caught after a police chase. The offender was the youngest member of the gang; his older brother was the leader.

However, there was proof that he had carried a gun and threatened a cashier and customers. He had several convictions for petty thefts and breach of the peace.

The initial survey involved 12 countries. It will now be widened to include other association members and the full final results will be published at the association's biennial conference in Nairobi in September.

Dr Peter Michael Müller, chairman of the association's criminal law committee, said the findings could fuel sentencing reform.

Discretion of courts 'too wide'

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

GOVERNMENT plans to persuade courts to impose fewer prison terms and to be more consistent in sentencing are "far too timid", the Prison Reform Trust says today.

The trust argues that the recent wave of jail riots means it is imperative that ministers adopt more radical measures. Allowing courts to continue to enjoy a wide discretion in sentencing is a "gamble" that offers no guarantee that the present fall in the jail population will be sustained, it says.

In the trust's formal response to the Home Office White Paper, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*, it argues that the key weakness of the White Paper is its assumption that the creation of new sentencing criteria will, in itself, be enough to effect a substantial switch from custodial sentences to punishment in the community. It argues instead for the establishment of a sentencing council.

Among the trust's recommendations are automatic release of short-term prisoners after serving one third of sentence, abolition of the mandatory life sentence for murder, for the Home Secretary to lose his veto over parole decisions, and full "ethnic monitoring" of court decisions.



Mr Colvin: Police believe his Bill will not work

£1m donation to save the dormouse

By Ruth Gledhill

A DONATION of £1 million to the London Zoo is aimed at helping to conserve rare small mammals such as the British dormouse.

The zoo will use the money to relaunch the Clore Pavilion for small mammals and Moonlight World, "one of the greatest small mammal exhibits". The Clore Pavilion, completed 21 years ago after a donation of £200,000 from the late Sir Charles Clore, led the field for many years in small mammal exhibit design.

The latest donation comes from the Clore Foundation. Mrs Vivien Duffield, daughter of Sir Charles, said: "The art of keeping and showing animals has gone through a major change over the past 20 years. I would like to see more teaching and education, and more animals exhibited in their natural habitat."

As a result of the donation the zoo will be able to further develop its programme for the captive breeding of the dormouse and other small

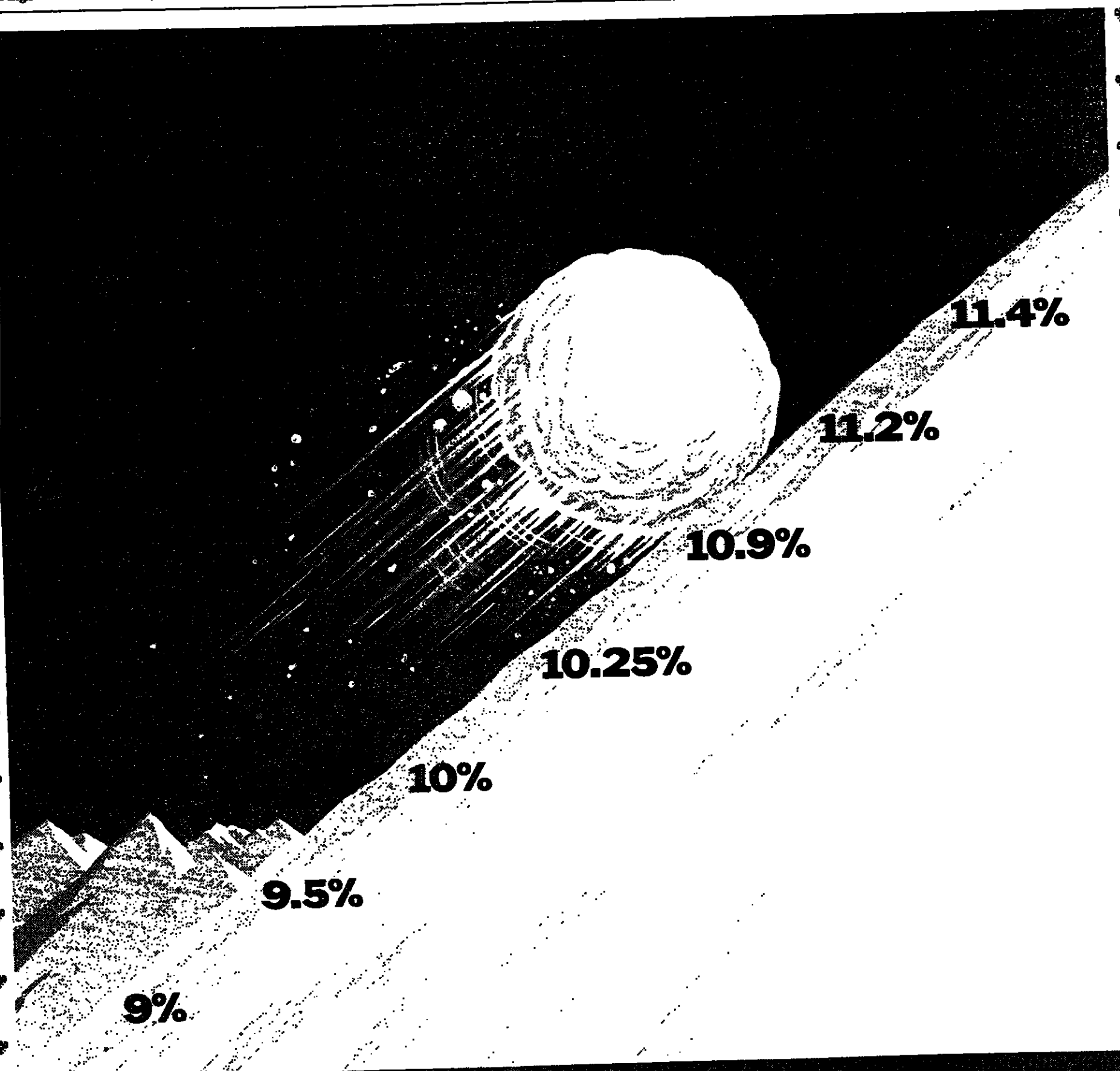
mammals, such as the South American golden lion tamarin, in a new off-show breeding area. Dr Jo Gippis, curator of mammals, said dormice, once common throughout Britain's rural areas, had become rare.

"It is not in immediate danger of extinction but it is a lot rarer than it used to be. It is like many species which seem safe, but before you know about it they are in trouble."

The zoo has acquired its first dormice, which are expected to breed later this year. Dr Gippis said the Clore Pavilion, built when Dr Desmond Morris was curator of mammals, could take up to 120 species.

The collection aspect, however, had become less important. The pavilion would instead focus on education and conservation, he said. It will include a Brazilian stream and Australian nocturnal mammals.

Focus on Zoo, pages 17-19



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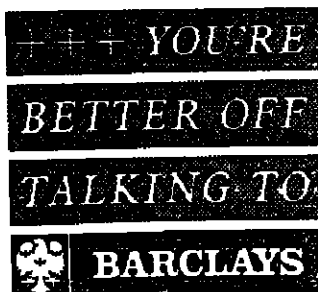
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Seconds to evict a family facing mortgage arrears

MR AND Mrs Matthew Gauntlett lost their three-bedroom terrace house in Bournemouth, Dorset, at a court hearing which lasted just a few seconds — and which they did not even attend. There is a cautionary tale in which just about everything went wrong, making them homeless only 10 months after moving into their first house.

In May 1988 they appear to have been badly advised by an over-eager estate agent who persuaded them to go for a £52,000 house. The Gauntletts — who have a son, aged four — had saved £6,000 for a deposit and Matthew, aged 26, was earning £12,000 a year with the possibility of an extra £1,000-a-year overtime.

There would be no difficulty, they were told, in raising a £46,000 mortgage — three-and-a-half times their gross income, taking potential overtime into account. "I was amazed how easy it all was," Mrs Mary Gauntlett, aged 25, said. "The estate agent did all the form-filling for a mortgage with the Abbey National and we just signed our names. We didn't see anybody from Abbey National."

"Within three months we realized we were in trouble. Interest rates had gone up and we became overdrawn at the bank." They also fell behind

with their mortgage repayments. "The Abbey National did ask us several times to come and discuss matters, but we could not pluck up courage. Once or twice, on the phone, I told them: 'What's the point? We haven't got any money'."

Abbey National warned the Gauntletts that it would have to take court action if nothing was done and in December 1988 gained an order from Poole County Court to repossess. The Gauntletts then raised a £1,500 second mortgage from the Midland Bank and paid off £800 of their Abbey National arrears.

Then Mr Gauntlett became ill, his earnings suffered and interest rates went up again. On February 7 1989 the county court informed the Gauntletts that Abbey National was enforcing the repossession order and that the house was to be vacated in 28 days. They moved into rented

accommodation. In October 1989 their house was sold by Abbey National and in February this year it paid a cheque of £8,929 plus £247 interest — the profit from the transaction after all costs — to the Midland Bank, their secondary lenders. "I don't know how much they sold our house for," Mrs Gauntlett said. "When we had paid all our debts, we finally received about £2,000."

"We were so financially naive and I can see now just how many things we did wrong. If we had had the sense and the courage to put our troubles in front of the building society from the very first we may never have lost the house. I can see now how dangerous it is to be talked into a mortgage based on potential overtime earnings."

The Gauntletts are now back in the housing market. Mr Gauntlett's earnings have improved and, with better advice, they are about to exchange contracts on a £56,000 house for which they have been given a 100 per cent mortgage.

Latest figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show that in the second half of last year 7,430 properties were repossessed, 17 per cent more than the first half. The Building Societies Association expects an increase in repossessions for the first half of this year. There is already a record proportion of borrowers in serious arrears.

Repossession cases are normally held in chambers at the county court at the discretion of the judge. A few hold them in open court, rattling through dozens of cases in a matter of seconds or minutes for each case.

The Lord Chancellor's department's response to the complaint that cases are heard without real evidence of the financial circumstances involved is: "The court hearing is the end of a long process, after the solicitors for both parties have gone into the details of the borrower's ability to pay."

Most cases never come to court, but the process begins with a writ served on the borrower, and if there is no response the plaintiff comes to the court asking for a judgement. In many cases, an order is made provisional, for 28 days, with the stipulation that it must not be served without the leave of the court.

By this time people will have been given many chances to pay off their arrears.

OUTSIDE and inside a signal box at the centre of a conservation fight. British Rail sees it as crumbling and obsolescent; railway enthusiasts say it is a "cathedral among signal boxes" (David Sapsted writes).

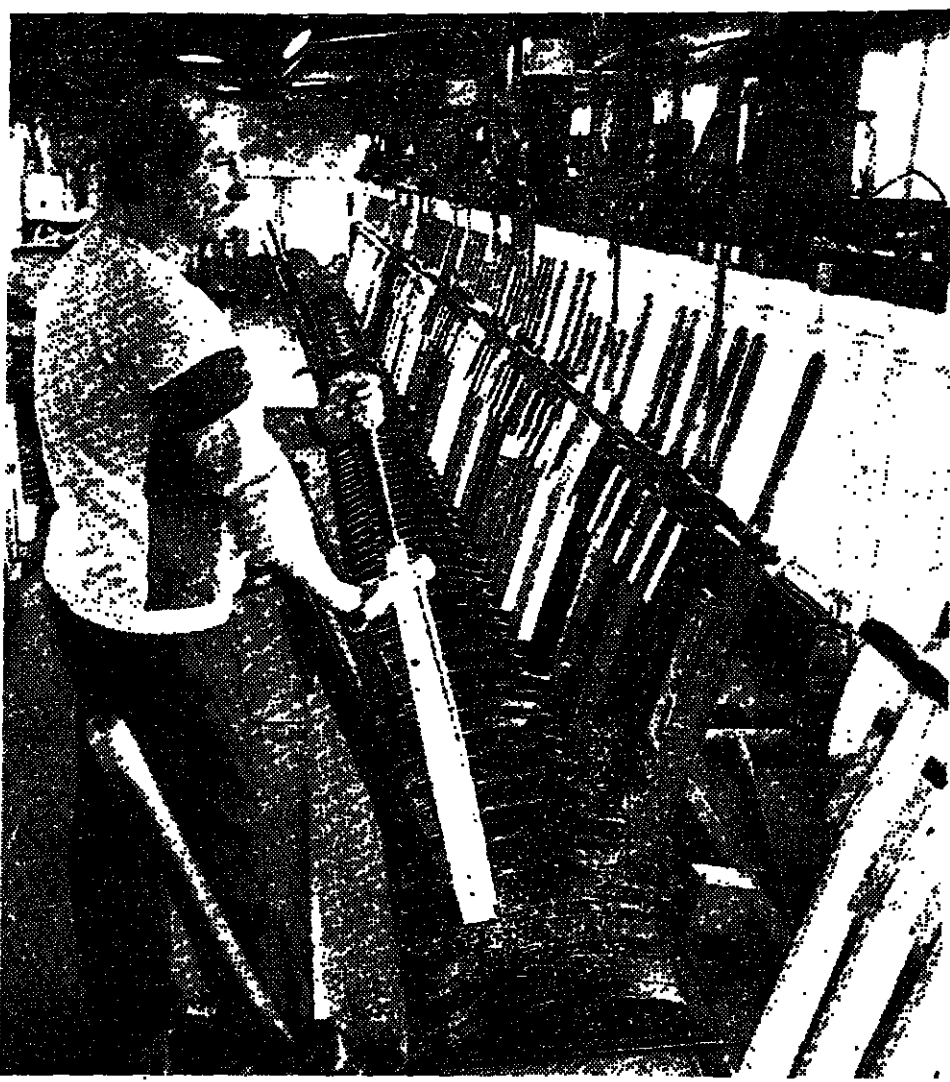
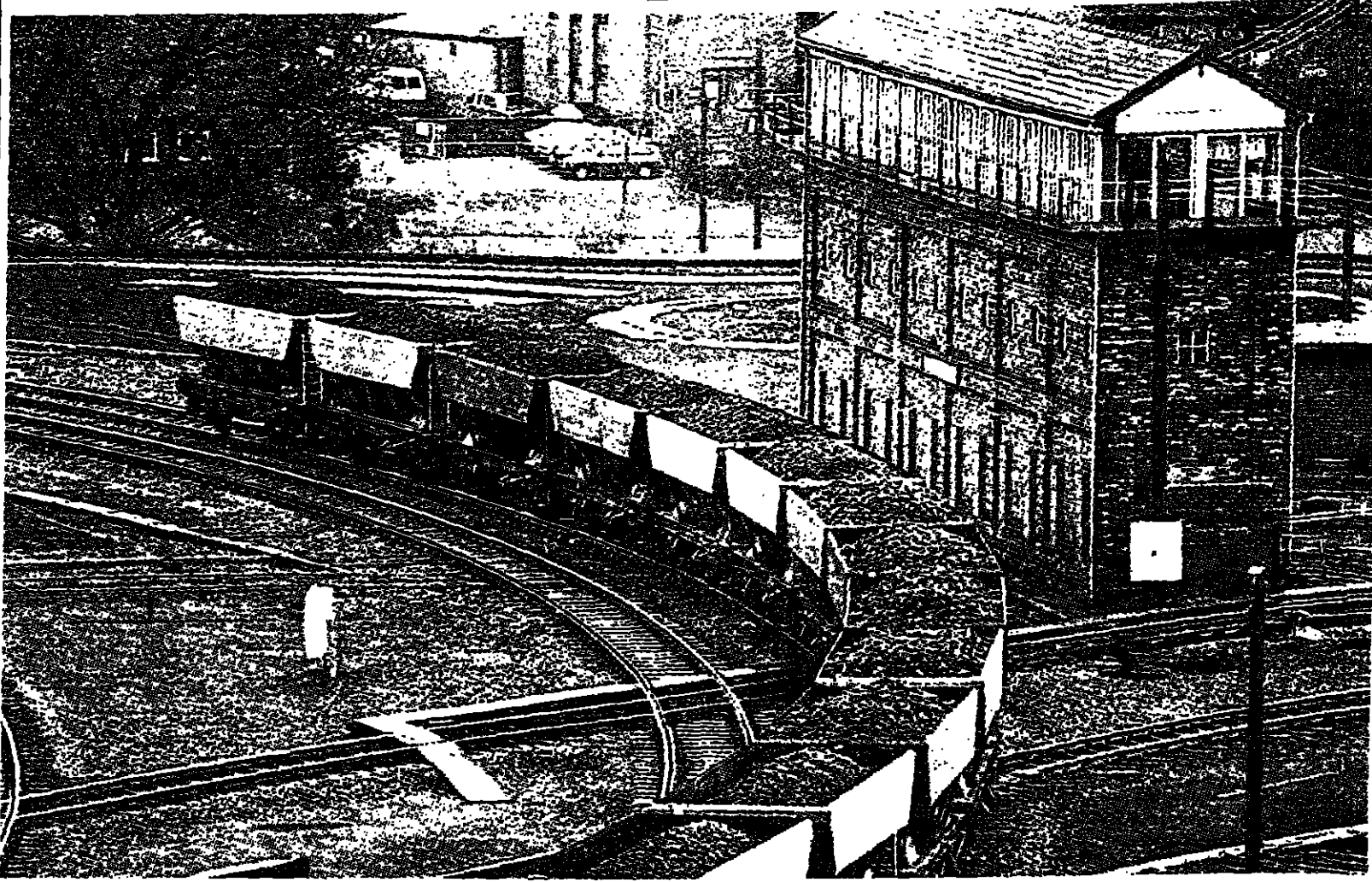
An appeal has been launched to save the century-old Severn Bridge signal box at Shrewsbury, Shropshire, due to be replaced next year by an automatic signalling centre. However, London Midland region said yesterday its plans eventually to demolish the box were going ahead.

The Shropshire Railway Society and the Shrewsbury Civic Society insist that the brick building is "the most interesting signal box in this land and should be preserved" and want it to become a museum. British Rail says its sister box, north of Crewe Junction, represents a much more feasible project for conservation.

"The Severn Bridge box is almost falling down, public access would be virtually impossible because it is surrounded by lines, and developing it as a museum would be extremely costly," BR says.

Campaigners claim that the building is the largest signal box of its kind in Europe. London Midland region said yesterday that there were no plans to add the box to the 1,800 preserved buildings on BR land, many "uninhabited except for rats and dossers".

BR's demolition plan signals trouble



Fireman killed in store blaze

A "flashover" explosion caused by a build-up of vapours was blamed yesterday for the death of a fireman in a blaze that destroyed a furniture store in Blackpool (David Sapsted writes).

Two other officers were injured in the explosion which killed Mr John Singleton, aged 33, a father of two, from Bispham, Lancashire. The firemen were among 100 officers called to the fire on Saturday night.

Firemen were still at the scene yesterday, darning down the wrecked two-storey building. Police said there would be an investigation into the cause of the fire.

Woman sheriff

Mrs Abel Smith, aged 50, of Ravenshead, Nottinghamshire, has been appointed Nottingham's first female High Sheriff since the post was created 1,000 years ago.

Plans rejected

Plans for a multi-million motorway-style filling station, conference hotel, restaurant and Thomas Hardy "heritage centre" near Stinsford, Dorset, have been rejected by Dorset County Council.

Film boat refit

A Florida hotelier who owns the African Queen, the boat which featured in the film of that name, has sent it to a firm in Storrington, West Sussex, for a refit because he could not find anyone in the United States able to restore its 1911 steam engine.

Winning song

Italy won this year's Eurovision Song Contest with a song entitled "Altogether 1990". Ireland and France shared second place, and the United Kingdom entry, sung by Emma Booth, was sixth.

Cricket replay

Mr Harry Prinn, aged 53, a cricket fanatic from Southampton, is having a ball-by-ball commentary of Hampshire's 1988 Benson & Hedges cup final win over Derbyshire played repeatedly to him to try to coax him out of a coma.

Melting point

An ice skating rink opened in Tavistock, Devon, five months ago, is closing because its refrigeration machines cannot stop the 2 in thick ice surface melting in the heat.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000, number 1788 521280, winner lives in Surrey; £50,000, 267L 501938 (Sheffield); £25,000, 29DT 123840 (Lancashire).

Village plans for affordable homes

A COUNCIL is drawing up a pioneering agreement with six young people to ensure that they will be able to afford homes in their Warwickshire village.

The six, all in their 20s, were born or brought up in the community of Birdingbury, near Rugby. None, however, can afford the minimum price of £75,000 to £80,000 for property in the village, which lies in the commuter belt.

Rugby council has given the six conditional planning permission to build their own homes on land on the edge of the village that has been protected from development. In return the six have agreed to be legally bound by an agreement that will state that if they decide to sell, they will offer their homes at an affordable price, and only to other first-time buyers from the village or a neighbouring community. Under the agree-

ment, the six villagers will be able to buy their plots for £5,000 each from a local estate. Had general planning permission been granted, they would have had to pay up to £25,000.

Solicitors are trying to overcome legal obstacles to draw up the terms of the agreement, which the local authority believes will help to stop the drift of young people away from rural areas. The villagers will now be able to build their homes for an estimated £40,000 each.

The four two-bedroomed houses and two three-bedroomed homes will be set around a courtyard. The villagers, three of whom work for a building company and two of whom are artisans, will do most of the work themselves.

The scheme has the support of Birdingbury Parish Council and most villagers signed a petition favouring the scheme.

Complaint rejected on gun film

THE Press Council has rejected a complaint by a chief constable of newspaper harassment after an indiscriminate shooting rampage in which a man was killed, it was announced today.

Sir Stanley Bailey, Chief Constable of Northumbria, claimed that a *Daily Mail* reporter pressed police for the return of photographs of an incident in which, it was alleged, Robert Sartin shot dead a man and injured 14 other people in Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, in April last year. Mr Sartin, aged 21, a schizophrenic, was last week found unfit to face charges of murder and attempted murder at Teesside Crown Court.

The council, the watchdog body for newspapers, said that the *Daily Mail* had bought a film from a local photographer and had handed it to police on request. The paper owned the film, and police should have complied with its request for its return or have supplied copies of photographs.

It was not improper for the paper to "press" for the film's return by threatening legal action and approaching the police, it said.

The council, in a general inquiry into press coverage of the incident, found that, except in the publishing of pictures of the accused before trial, there were no grounds for complaint.

Proposal to allow tracing of fathers 'very destructive'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

THOUSANDS of infertile couples could be denied the chance of having children and many family relationships could be put at risk if certain aspects of the Government's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill become law, two senior specialists said yesterday.

The anonymity of men donating sperm used in artificial insemination would no longer be guaranteed, and children born as a result of the technique would have the right to find out their genetic origins, Mr Peter Braude and Dr Martin Johnson, both of Cambridge University, said.

Male infertility accounts for about half of all cases of infertility in Britain, and is virtually untreatable except through donor insemination. Recruitment of donors however is becoming increasingly difficult and is likely to become more so if their anonymity is not ensured, the specialists said.

Mr Braude, chairman of the Professional Advisory Group for Infertility and Genetic Services, is consultant lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology, and Dr Johnson, secretary of the group, is a reader in experimental embryology.

They said that, under the Bill, the names of sperm

donors would be stored in the files of a new licensing authority created to regulate the practices of infertility clinics. The main intention was that, if a child born after donor insemination should be found to have a genetic disease, the donor could be traced and advised of the risk of passing on that condition to their own offspring.

This was an "admirable idea" but the Bill also allowed for a child, on reaching 18 years, to request information about its genetic origins. "If a child believed to be born of donor insemination has the right to request genetic testing of the putative donor, then presumably it must follow that all naturally conceived children cannot be denied this right, and may have their own father tested to confirm paternity," the specialists said.

Such a right could lead to "considerable destruction of family relationships" because many children believed to be the product of a marriage were in fact not the offspring of the husband but the result of some other sexual liaison.

"The Bill as constituted cannot give clear and unambiguous evidence of genetic paternity without opening the floodgates to a situation very destructive to the family."

Use of pesticides as poison 'unabated'

By Michael Horsley, Agriculture Correspondent

NEARLY two thirds of animals poisoned by pesticides are killed deliberately, a report by the body that advises the Government on pesticide control shows.

Of the 641 suspected incidents of animal poisoning investigated in 1988, 34 per cent involved pesticides. Of these, 62 per cent showed "deliberate abuse" of approved pesticides and 19 per cent showed "misuse", usually as a result of inadequate storage or careless application.

"The level of abuse has remained fairly steady over recent years," Dr Peter Greig-Smith, head of environmental research at the Central Science Laboratory of the Agricultural Development

and Advisory Service, said. "The main culprits appear to be farmers and gamekeepers using poisoned baits to keep birds of prey and other predators away from game and lambs. Unfortunately, it is often hard to get proof and successful prosecution is difficult."

In 1988, the latest year for which a report has been compiled, seven cases of pesticide abuse and misuse in England and Wales were successfully prosecuted and fines ranging from £40 to £350 imposed. A gamekeeper in the Grampian region of Scotland was fined £2,500 for preparing poisoned baits and other offences.

Children could suffer from a serious outbreak of bird poisoning under investigation by Lincolnshire police and the Ministry of Agriculture, spokesmen said yesterday. Several cases have been

reported in the Market Rasen area by walkers on the Viking Way at Tealby, Lincolnshire. They found two dead magpies and a poisonous green fluid. Another dead rook and five eggs with syringe puncture marks were found later.

Children who picked up the eggs could be in danger from the poison, a county spokesman for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said. Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture have removed the eggs for scientific tests.

Bird poisoning in Lincolnshire has already prevented the breeding of some buzzards and kites. The spokesman said the action was indiscriminate and put at risk not just wildlife but livestock, family pets and even children. The practice of placing poison bait for birds was not only illegal, it was highly dangerous.

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مكتبات الأمل

Illinois race pits Senate veteran against Bush protégé

From Peter Stothard
US Editor, Chicago

PRESIDENT Bush's policies are to be tested in elections across America this autumn — in few places more clearly than in Illinois, where the Senate race has been dubbed "the season's classic".

On the one side is a "modern Republican" woman aged 50, a former teacher who has become a close friend of the President and his wife. Even ideological opponents speak of "a dynamic politician" who might be the White House ticket herself in 1996.

On the other side is one of the most flamboyant traditional Democrats, a 60-year-old enthusiast for higher taxes and spending who ran for President in 1988 and still hopes for influence over the future of his party.

Senator Paul Simon is the incumbent — although with barely more than 50 per cent of the vote in 1984 — and he is the favourite to keep the seat in one of America's most carefully watched "bell-wether" states.

But Mrs Lynn Martin is a 10-year member of the House of Representatives who successfully led the Bush campaign for Illinois in 1988. She has big support

from a national Republican machine which has made her one of its top six prospects (probably the very top) whose victory would overturn the Democrats' Senate majority.

If the President's A-team of three men and three women can win in Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, Hawaii, Rhode Island and Illinois, it will be an unprecedented boost for the White House. If, as analysts predict, only half of them are successful, it will still mark a critical stage towards their aim of winning the Senate in 1992.

Republicans fancy their chances highly this year, both because of Mr Bush's record popularity and the continuing disarray among the Democrat congressional leadership. But another reason, according to independent election-watchers Mr Charles Cook and Mr Stewart Rothenberg, is the calibre of the Republican candidates.

Mrs Martin is one of eight Republicans who have decided to try their luck upstairs. But, even in a strong field, Mrs Martin has appeared particularly formidable. She is tough, youthful, apparently tireless and very witty. She offers herself as a fiscal conservative and a social moderate. Her claim to be against

new taxes but to be a strong environmentalist and education advocate is central to the notion of a broad-based Bush coalition for the 1990s.

Her closeness to the President is a spur to her more ambitious supporters, who can expect influential Washington careers if she wins. It is also a red rag to her opponents, who are out to destroy her boast that Illinois will have better services without paying more tax.

Both candidates have media consultants who are masters of the art of personal insults. Mrs Martin has the past master, Mr Roger Ailes, who did the dirtier work for the Bush campaign in 1988. It is considered to be only a matter of time before the race turns nasty.

This weekend the two sides were chasing the ethnic vote. Mr Simon, sporting his trademark bow-tie, accompanied by bow-tied supporters and aides wearing bow-tie badges, had a Polish breakfast and led a Polish rally.

His opponent, who two years ago made a convenient discovery of her own Polish ancestry, ate the same red-ribbed breakfast before walking a mile or two with a Mexican parade.

Mrs Martin has been likened to a young Mrs Thatcher for breaking the

male domination of the Republican congressional leadership. On her television commercials, wearing a periwinkle-blue suit and barely controlling the sharpness of her voice, there is some personal resemblance too. But, on the street outside Manny's Barber Shop on the south-west side, it is hard to imagine the Prime Minister ever dancing to Spanish disco music, still less doing so in the political heartland of her opponents.

Half way through the march she offered a lifter to the next stop. "If you win, you won't be offering me lifts then," he said. "True," she replied, "and isn't it great that we know where we stand from the start?"

Politics lies deep in every part of Chicago life, particularly among the black, Hispanic and Polish communities. The toughest task for the Simon campaign is to repair its links to the south-side blacks, the home constituents of the Rev Jesse Jackson. They have not forgiven the Senator for preventing his 1988 delegates from switching to Mr Jackson at the Democratic Convention.

Earlier this year, after a bitterly racial local election, in which the black candidate lost, Jackson supporters were told not to vote in November — a

decision which Mr Simon must try to overturn since he needs at least 90 per cent support in core Democrat areas if he is to win.

The Republicans have had electoral shocks this year, too. In their primary to select a candidate for Governor, the experienced and well-known choice of the moderate party machine, lost a third of the vote to a young, unknown opponent of high taxes and abortion.

Mrs Martin hopes that her anti-tax rhetoric will overcome the prejudices of those on the right who oppose her support of liberal abortion law. But, like her opponent, she cannot afford for any of her party's hard-core support to stay out of the voting booths.

Senator Simon is a clever, chimerical politician who manages to look like a countryman in his southern agricultural homeland and a sophisticated internationalist in the city. As he worked his way around the Polish breakfast on Saturday, he looked like a parish priest.

Mrs Martin, by contrast, towered elegantly, but rather distantly, above the breakfasters. She was unrecognized when she arrived but, when she came to speak, was heard with intent respect. "They're getting interested," she re-

marked with some satisfaction at an early raid on her opponent's territory.

Senator Simon's brownstone HQ within Chicago's expensive "Loop" district shows the benefits of the incumbent. Mrs Martin's base — both politically and for this campaign — is in the suburbs. Her campaign to win the Windy City is being fought from a blasted airport-side site.

It is there that her team plans the fund-raising visits from President and Cabinet, the televised attacks on their opponent's liberalism and absences from the Senate; and it is there that they search for the defining issue, the decisive weakness to be exploited.

Mrs Martin is keen to revive a piece of Illinois history and rerun the Lincoln-Douglas debates of the 1858 Senate race, visiting the same towns and covering the same broad ground of competing political philosophies. Senator Simon is not thought to be so enthusiastic.

The two sides are still negotiating. But, as one supporter put it, "while the Democrat Judge Douglas did win the Senate race in 1858, no one in their right mind would want to risk casting a politician like Lynn Martin as the future President Lincoln".

India linked to 'bomb' toll on train in Pakistan

Lahore

A SUSPECTED bomb ripped through the first-class carriage of a Pakistani express train near the troubled border with India yesterday, killing at least 12 people and injuring 41, authorities said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility. Authorities refused to speculate about who was to blame, saying only that it was sabotage. But many of the 3,000 people who converged on the site blamed India.

Pakistani newspapers have blamed a series of bombings in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad on Indian secret service agents. At least four bombs exploded last month, killing and wounding scores of people. The Government, however, has avoided placing blame for the attacks.

The bomb exploded at about 3 pm in the toilet of the first-class carriage, according to Mr Mohammad Iqbal Bodi, the stationmaster at Badami Bagh station where the train stopped. The station is just outside Lahore, the ancient capital of eastern Punjab province. The city is 15 miles

from the India-Pakistan border.

The 10-car Taz Gam Express, Pakistan's fastest train, was travelling to the southern port city of Karachi from Rawalpindi, adjacent to the federal capital of Islamabad. Trains in Pakistan are always crowded.

Authorities said the first-class carriage, the only one damaged in the explosion, was carrying 60 people.

Predominantly Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan have been uneasy neighbours since their 1947 partition, when British colonial rule ended. But relations have deteriorated since a Muslim insurgency erupted in India's state of Jammu and Kashmir. More than 300 people have been killed since January 20, when Indian troops launched a crackdown on the militants who want to secede from India.

Jammu and Kashmir is India's only Muslim state.

India and Pakistan both claim Kashmir and went to war in 1948 and in 1965 over the former princely state, which is now divided between the two countries by a UN-monitored ceasefire line. In the latest round of violence, both countries have accused each other of military build-ups along the border and heightened fears of another confrontation.

India also faces a separatist movement in Punjab state, where Sikh militants are demanding an independent nation.

Hundreds of people have been killed every year since the Sikh insurgency started in 1983. India regularly blames Pakistan for arming, training and harboring militants in both states. Pakistan routinely denies the charges.

Hundreds of bombs have exploded in Pakistan's cities and villages in the past few years, but most have occurred along the rugged North-West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan, where Muslim guerrillas are fighting to overthrow the Soviet-supported Government in Kabul. (AP)

● DELHI: Security forces have shot dead 10 suspected Muslim militants in Jammu and Kashmir, the Press Trust of India reported yesterday. Soldiers shot and killed four militants in Handwara district on Saturday when they attacked a security patrol, the agency said. On the same day federal troops killed six other separatists elsewhere in the state. (AFP)

Setback over US hostages

Bir el-Abed, Beirut — Renewed attacks by Shia Muslim revolutionaries on the United States yesterday appeared certain to paralyse efforts to win the release of five American hostages (Juan Carlos Guncio writes).

As hundreds of Hezbollah militants gathered here to pay homage to 77 "martyrs", Hajj Abu Yasar, a leading figure of the pro-Iranian militia, accused the US of "instigating the hostage-taking. He said the release of Professor Robert Pollard and Mr Frank Reed "has put the ball in the American court and has raised anew the issue of the prisoners held by Israel..."

In the Majlis (parliament) in Tehran, Mr Mahdi Karubi, the radical Speaker, proclaimed the United States as "the enemy of Islam". "As long as America is plotting against the Islamic world... the issue of negotiation and the issue of the US will never be discussed," he said.

Sydney rail crash kills 6

Sydney — At least six people died and 150 were injured after two trains — one of them an historic steam locomotive — collided in a tunnel last night on the northern outskirts of Sydney (Robert Cockburn writes).

A double-decker passenger train filled with football fans crashed into the back of the steam train, which was packed with railway enthusiasts. Work to free those still trapped in the wreckage was hampered as access to the site is only by rail and a dirt track.

Exodus prompts flats shortage

Jerusalem — The supply of flats to house the flood of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel will run out within six weeks, according to the Housing Ministry (Richard Owen writes). Officials said yesterday that Israel would have to import prefabricated housing at \$12,000 a unit.

Sources said the additional burden on the budget would come at a time when the US was withholding \$400 million (£244 million) in housing aid for new Soviet immigrants.



The wreckage of a Miami-bound DC-6 cargo aircraft protruding from shattered homes after the plane crashed on to a residential area of Guatemala City, killing at least 17 people, including three crew. Rescuers found bodies under the rubble of homes demolished in the crash, apparently caused when the plane lost an engine. Explosions triggered by several home propane gas tanks hampered rescue efforts

De Klerk takes a 'lap of honour' through Europe

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

PRESIDENT de Klerk embarks on a tour of European capitals this week in the hope of reaping diplomatic and economic rewards from his historic agreement with the African National Congress.

It is a measure of the changing political climate that he will be the first South African head of state to enter Europe by the front door since General Jan Smuts in 1945. His predecessors in the inter-war period, tainted by the stigma of apartheid, were obliged to sneak in through the back door.

During his 18-day tour of nine countries, Mr de Klerk will confer with a galaxy of kings, presidents and prime ministers in an attempt to win friends and influence people with his reform initiatives.

He leaves tomorrow night for Paris to meet President Mitterrand, and is scheduled to have talks with Mrs Thatcher in London on May 19. Other countries on the itinerary are West Germany, Greece, Portugal, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium and Italy.

Government sources say Mr de Klerk will endeavour to

persuade his hosts that he has already passed the point of no return in dismantling apartheid, and that they ought to replace their sticks with a few carrots — specifically to help relieve the economic plight of the black majority.

He does not intend to raise the issue of sanctions, although he would welcome any moves to lift them. Rather he will be seeking financial assistance in creating the more equitable society his foreign critics have consistently demanded.

The sources say it is of paramount importance that other countries help narrow the massive socio-economic gap between the black and white communities, and thereby reduce the potential for conflict. In practical terms, this means foreign investment and access to IMF funds to create jobs. Thus, in addition to the political discussions, meetings are planned with business leaders and journalists.

A member of the delegation said remarks by Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, that he had not the

slightest doubt about Mr de Klerk's sincerity, should be recognized abroad.

"We are not putting a high profile on sanctions, but if the Europeans are prepared to concede that there is no turning back, and there is not, then sufficient grounds exist for them to help us rather than hinder us. We are also coming to listen to their views, to ask them what they feel still has to be done before relations can be normalized."

As he sets off on what amounts to a tentative lap of honour in the hope of picking up a few prizes, President de Klerk leaves behind a bitter and disillusioned predecessor.

Mr P. W. Botha, who was unceremoniously bundled from power after suffering a stroke last year, resigned from the National Party at the weekend in a fit of pique at the reform process. He said he was dissatisfied with his successor's leadership.

Mr Botha told a reporter that he objected specifically to the inclusion of Mr Joe Slovo, the South African Communist Party leader, in the ANC delegation to last week's talks.

Saudis try to heal Syria-Iraq split

Baghdad

CROWN Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia arrived in Baghdad yesterday for talks with President Saddam Hussein on ending a decade-long rift between Syria and Iraq.

The Crown Prince flew to Damascus on Saturday on the first leg of a tour of four Arab capitals aimed at seeking a reconciliation between President Saddam and President Assad of Syria.

A rapprochement is regarded as a vital condition for convening an emergency Arab summit in the Iraqi capital later this month to discuss the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and other pressing issues.

Crown Prince Abdullah was also understood to be pressing the Syrians to end a seven-year feud with the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, who has close relations with the Iraqi President.

In Damascus, no details of Crown Prince Abdullah's talks with President Assad were disclosed. But the government-run daily *Tishrin* said that the visit came "within the framework of pan-Arab efforts

for unity". The Saudi prince's trip to Syria coincided with a visit to Baghdad by King Husain of Jordan, who is also working for Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation.

Crown Prince Abdullah was greeted in Baghdad by Mr Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, and the second-ranking figure after President Saddam. A Saudi Arabian Embassy official said the prince would meet President Saddam later yesterday. He is scheduled to visit Cairo and Amman when he leaves Baghdad.

President Saddam is keen to hold the summit in Baghdad to demonstrate that the Arab world is behind him amid what he views as a concentrated Western campaign against him over his drive to build up his military arsenal.

Crown Prince Abdullah is chairman of an Arab League committee formed at the 1982 Arab summit in Fez, Morocco, which was instrumental in promoting a rapprochement between Syria and Jordan. Many obstacles remain to be overcome before Syria and Iraq can improve relations. (AP)

Cartels hit by cocaine seizure

From A Correspondent Bogota

THE Colombian Government has scored another desperately needed victory in its war against the cocaine cartels, with the arrest of 18 suspects and the seizure of 12 tonnes of refined cocaine in the departments of Meta and Caqueta on the Peruvian and Brazilian borders.

The raids were part of a bigger anti-narcotics effort known as "Operation Autumn", according to Brigadier-General Humberto Correa Castaneda of the Army's Seventh Brigade. Earlier, 214kg (481 lb) of cocaine was found in food on a ship about to sail from the Caribbean port of Cartagena to the Colombian island of Providencia.

Successes against the cartels are carrying an increasingly high price. Seven people were shot dead in Medellin on Friday, during a raid on an office said by police to house front companies for Señor Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the head of the Medellin cartel.

The dead included Mariano Ostina Montoya, whom police said was one of Señor Escobar's financial managers and wanted for murder. But the raid has raised questions about the tactics of the SAS-trained anti-narcotics force formed last year to tackle the cocaine cartels. It appears that at least four of the dead were not wanted for any crime.

The war between the two main cocaine cartels, from Cali and Medellin, seems to have started up again with the detonation of a huge car bomb outside a supermarket in Cali on Thursday night. The explosion killed four and injured another 28.

While the security forces have concentrated on breaking up the Medellin cartel and, in particular, capturing Señor Escobar, the Cali cartel has continued to thrive, according to narcotics intelligence experts. The group has a much lower profile under the supposed leadership of Señor Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela.

Before August 1989, the Cali cartel was believed to be responsible for about 20 per cent of the cocaine entering the US and Europe; the Medellin cartel claimed about 60 per cent.

● MIAMI: An alleged boss of the Cali drug cartel and an associate pleaded guilty on Saturday to drug charges which carry a maximum of life imprisonment, court officials said. The trial of Señor Luis Santacruz Echeverri, considered the US co-ordinator for the Cali drug cartel, is expected to last another month. (AFP)

Medals end 22 years of disgrace for crew tortured by Koreans

From Charles Bremner
New York

ANOTHER ghost from the Vietnam era was laid to rest yesterday when the US Navy awarded medals to the captain and crew of the USS Pueblo, 22 years after they were captured and tortured by North Korea and then disgraced by their own Government. President Bush told the men in a message: "America owes a debt of gratitude to the crew of the Pueblo."

For Mr Pete Bucher, the former captain who was seen in the divided America of 1968 as either traitor or heroic victim, the full-dress ceremony overlooking the San Diego naval base marked a vindication that helped assuage the bitterness of two decades.

"These guys served with great courage and dignity," said the retired commander. "They supported this country during a very brutal period in their lives. This is the first chance they've had to stand up in public and be recognized. It makes them feel good and it gives me a great deal of joy."

Sixty-four of the surviving 79 crew members of the intelligence



Mr Bucher, left, joking with Mr Willie Bussell, a former Pueblo shipmate, before receiving their medals in San Diego. The vessel received prisoner-of-war medals from Mrs Barbara Pope, an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Only two years ago, the Government refused to issue the medals when it awarded tens of thousands to former prisoners in the Indochina war. That action prompted

United States maintained were international. The ship was attacked by five torpedo boats and a squadron of MiG fighters. One seaman was killed.

Commander Bucher and his crew were taken to Pyongyang, where they were tortured until they signed confessions to spying and trying "to provoke war". The men were paraded in public and their humiliating appearances on television and in photographs added to America's sense of frustration as anguish over the Vietnam War was reaching its peak.

On their return after 11 months in captivity, Commander Bucher and his men were effectively detained by the Navy and questioned for eight weeks. An inquiry ordered him to be court-martialled along with another officer, but the Secretary of the Navy stepped in and ruled that there would be no further punishment. The Commander of the Pacific Fleet closed the case with reprimands.

In books and television documentaries, Mr Bucher and his men have accused the Government of the time of treating them as scapegoats. They described appall-

ing treatment at the hands of the North Koreans.

Last week Mr Bucher recounted beatings that continued unabated for weeks before he signed the confession. He was forced to his knees while interrogators pulled the trigger of pistols jammed against his head. He attempted suicide. However, after he was told that his crew would all be shot, he relented and "confessed". The crew was also subjected to beatings and psychological torture for months.

In their confessions and appearances, the crew tried to bamboozle the North Koreans by inserting references in their confessions to friends with names such as "Garba Gefollows" — garbage follows.

Mr Bucher, who has established himself as a watercolour artist, accused the Navy of failing to equip his ship for hostile action and providing no protection. The crew managed to throw all secret equipment overboard before capture, but they were unable to destroy secret documents, which fell into the hands of the Koreans.

In his message read out at the ceremony, President Bush said:

"Your patriotism and your devotion to duty under the most trying circumstances were in keeping with the most indomitable spirit of all America POWs. I salute each of you for your unfailing resolve and your distinguished service to our country."

Congressman Nicholas Mavroules, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, who sponsored the legislation that made the Pueblo crew eligible for the honour, said: "Our action today is only a small token of what the people of this country owe these Americans. I apologize for all the citizens of this nation because it has taken us so long to recognize your bravery and your service."

The ceremony was the second in a week in which senior officers have voiced bitterness towards their own service. Last Friday the retiring captain of the USS Iowa wept in a farewell ceremony as he accused the Navy of injustice in its investigation of the explosion in the battleship's gun turret a year ago. Four dozen sailors were killed in the blast, which the Navy attributed to a deliberate action by a disgruntled seaman.

Ukraine
Catholic
celebration
religious
freedom

One million cross Soviet border for Moldavian reunion

Leuseni, Soviet Union
AN ESTIMATED million joyous Romanians surged into the Soviet Union on Sunday for their first reunion with fellow Moldavians in 45 years. In a humanitarian gesture, the Soviet authorities agreed to open for just one day eight crossing points along a 260-mile stretch of the Prut river, which has marked the division of Moldavia between Romania and the Soviet Union since 1945.

At the Leuseni bridge alone, more than 300,000 Romanians poured over the river to be greeted with hugs, kisses — and in some cases tearful reunions with long-lost relations — by Soviet Moldavians who had gathered in their thousands on the other side.

Once across the river bridge it was clear that the Soviet guards had given up all hope of controlling the crowds and they quickly entered into the festive spirit, exchanging bear-hugs with Romanian visitors. The event, organized by Moldavian cultural associations on both sides of the border, had been billed in advance as "The Bridge of Flowers". In the event, it could also be described as "The Bridge of Tears". Millions of flowers were indeed tossed over the border bridge, until the Prut became a brilliantly coloured carpet of tulips, roses and peonies. But it was the display of sheer human emotion by a divided people that will remain in the memory of Western observers at the scene.

A Romanian Army colonel on duty at the bridge said that until last December's overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu he had been unable to reveal that he was born on the Soviet side of the Moldavia border because the executed dictator banned people with "foreign connections" from joining the armed forces.

With tears rolling down his cheeks, he declared: "Ceausescu did many evil things but he was never able to take the love out of our souls. There was water in his veins, not blood."

Standing near by was Mr Ion Unguryanu, Culture Minister of the Soviet republic of Moldavia and a prime mover in obtaining Kremlin approval for the extraordinary reunion.

A Moldavian who was expelled from the republic 20 years ago for "nationalism" and is now rehabilitated, Mr Unguryanu was optimistic that eventually there would be free traffic across the border, but he saw no need for the Soviet and Romanian areas to become a single Moldavian nation.

A senior Romanian Army officer estimated that more than 300,000 people had crossed at Leuseni and that at least 100,000 had entered the Soviet Union at each of the seven other crossing points.

Moldavians in the Bessarabia border area were divided in 1945 when Stalin insisted on retaining boundaries agreed with Nazi Germany. This was never queried by Romania's post-war communist leadership. But, after last December's revolution, the long-dormant movement to renew links was reborn. (Reuters)



Pirate festival: A young participant in the annual Bun festival yesterday on Hong Kong's Cheung Chau island, held to placate the spirits of ancestors killed by pirates

China lectures Mongolia leader

From Catherine Sampson, Peking
PRESIDENT Ochirbat of Mongolia left Peking yesterday after receiving a lecture on how to deal with unrest from Mr Jiang Zemin, China's party leader. Opposition protests have spread since he began his visit.

Mr Jiang told President Ochirbat on Saturday: "Because Mongolia is China's next door neighbour we have been paying close attention to the changes taking place there". Offering a little avuncular advice, Mr Jiang continued: "Developing countries must have stability before they can develop their economies, upheavals not only can impede the economic development of a country, but will also greatly jeopardize its destiny."

China has not advised any country to copy its example of last June's suppression of peaceful protest. But Mr Jiang's words appeared to go further than the usual studied indifference to upheavals in the Soviet Union and its allies.

While Chinese Communist Party documents for internal consumption have bitterly criticized the collapse of the Communist Party's monopoly on power, in public leaders have been careful to say they will not comment on the domestic affairs of another country. Mr Jiang, too, softened his words by saying that he believed the Mongolian Revolutionary Party was capable of solving its own problems.

As Mr Ochirbat took his leave, President Yang Shangkun of China said that the visit marked a new starting point in bilateral state and party relations. China's relations with Mongolia have paralleled those with the Soviet Union and, taking the lead from President Gorbachev's Peking summit last year, Mr Ochirbat's is the first top-level Mongolian visit to China since 1962.

Mr Yang described the visit as "very successful", and Mr Ochirbat replied: "Everything turned out as we wished," according to China's official news agency. They signed agreements on science and technology, environmental protection and public health.

China is believed to be concerned that Mongolian nationalism, which is closely caught up in Mongolia's opposition movement, might spread into Chinese-ruled Inner Mongolia.

● **ULAN BATOR:** About 1,000 Mongolians demonstrated on Sunday in support of pro-democracy protesters staging a sit-in in central Ulan Bator. (Reuters reports) Ulan Bator's official media described the situation as "chaos" caused by illegal democracy demonstrations, strikes and hunger strikes against communist authorities.

Fear of violence casts shadow on Romania election

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest
WITH no tradition of successful multi-party democracy, and the immediate legacy of the most repressive dictatorship in the old communist bloc, it is no surprise that the organizers of Romania's first free elections in 53 years are obsessed with security.

The 42-page decree law covering the May 20 election of a new president and parliament stipulates that each of the 13,000 polling booths will be surrounded by a *cordon sanitaire* from which all political groups will be excluded.

Police and army personnel will guard polling stations. "The fear of intimidation is very great, and suspicions are understandably high in a country which has no real experience of political freedom," one official said. The sale of alcohol is to be banned on polling day in an attempt to reduce the possibility of violence. But diplomatic observers believe it is much more likely here than in any of the other recently liberated countries in Eastern Europe.

General Mihai Diamandescu, the Chief of Police and Deputy Interior Minister, said that by Saturday 105 attacks on electoral property — party buildings and billboards — had been recorded and 63 people prosecuted.

At the weekend Mr Radu Campeanu, leader of the National Liberal Party, was injured by a mob wielding sticks and throwing stones in the provincial town of Braila. Earlier a Liberal Party booth was burnt down in Brasov, and party workers beaten.

At a press conference in the heavily guarded headquarters of the ruling National Salvation Front, widely accused of manipulating its interim control of government to further its own election prospects, General Diamandescu denied opposition allegations that "four or five" political killings had taken place.

In an attempt to add credibility to a poll which many in the opposition camp have already declared in advance will be slanted in the Front's favour, between 500 and 1,000 foreign observers are being invited, including Mr Jimmy Carter, the former US President, and Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor.

The promise of foreign referees has so far done nothing to dispel the atmosphere of fear and suspicion. This has been encouraged by the Government's failure to stage the promised trials of hundreds of former members of the Securitate secret police in the months since Nicolae Ceausescu, the former dictator, was executed.

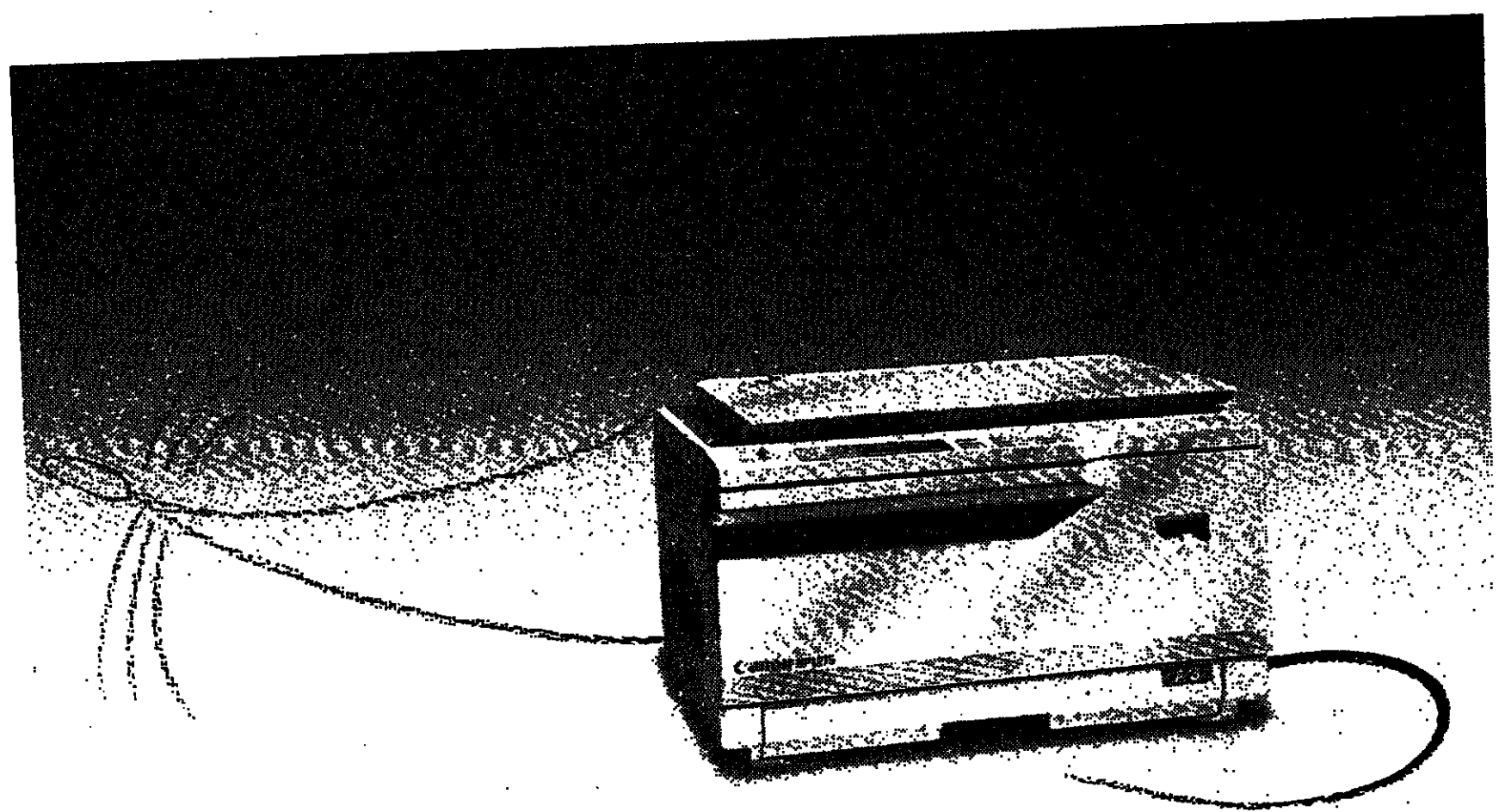
Mr Corneliu Coposu, leader of the right-wing National Peasant Party, and a former political prisoner, said that voters were being intimidated by former Securitate members. He said party activists had received death threats and were being terrorized by "special commandos" of former Securitate agents. "I am absolutely sure the Securitate was reactivated. According to my information, two Securitate divisions were reactivated," he said.

Noisy demonstrators who have blocked the centre of Bucharest for the past fortnight, embarrassing the Government and angering many ordinary citizens, are demanding a change in the law to exclude members of the communist *nomenklatura*.

President Iliescu, himself a former top communist party official and an old friend of President Gorbachev, has offered to open a dialogue with the protesters tomorrow, but has ruled out in advance any changes in the electoral law. Senior Front officials have hinted that force will be used to end the protest before election day.

Altogether 73 parties are contesting the parliamentary elections, but around 12 are regarded as "phantom groups" which will give their support to the Front. The latest opinion polls predict the Front will win 56 per cent of the vote, followed by the National Liberal Party with 15 per cent.

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Patriot buried seminar

liberation

Norway's warning on whales

Oslø — Mr Svein Munkejord, the Norwegian Minister of Fisheries, has hinted that Norway might pull out of the International Whaling Commission after its July meeting in the Netherlands if there is no progress in efforts to have the minke whale removed from the list of protected species. (A Correspondent writes).

"We feel that we have sufficient documentation and scientific proof that this particular stock of minke whale, the north-east Atlantic minke whale, is definitely not a threatened stock," he said.

Warship protest

Sydney — Greenpeace protesters said they were punched after getting on a visiting US warship suspected of carrying nuclear weapons.

Frog suit

New York — A Long Island student is suing her university for violating her constitutional rights by requiring her to dissect a frog.

Ordeal over

Rome — Signor Carlo Celadon, aged 20, returned to his home in northern Italy where he was kidnapped 27 months ago, ending the longest kidnap ordeal in Italian history.

Plane hijacked

Mogadishu — Two Somalis hijacked a light plane from southern Somalia to the Ethiopian border and are holding the pilot and three passengers, one British, hostage. (AFP)

Firing rules

Jerusalem — Israel's navy chief has issued new rules on firing at sea after Jordan complained that an Israeli gunboat in the Red Sea opened fire while King Hussein sailed past. (Reuters)

Rebels concede

Managua — Nicaragua's Contra rebels have agreed to start handing in their weapons tomorrow and disarm fully by June 10 after receiving guarantees on their personal safety from the country's new Government. (Reuters)

Keith Joseph finds errors in introducing the poll tax, but applauds Mrs Thatcher

Why she must have another term

Though I prefer to discuss policies rather than personalities, the question of Margaret Thatcher's leadership involves both. Let me state my belief that she is the best prime minister we could have had, and overwhelmingly the best for this parliament and the next.

Yet she is the target of vicious verbal abuse. She herself never descends to mud-slinging, criticizing policies not people.

Her vision is of a self-reliant British people with generous help to those who cannot help themselves, but without encouraging dependency or a welfare culture.

Only remember the state of the country when she came in! The unions were considered above the law; public-sector management quailed before them; even the dead were buried. In the private sector, competitiveness was thwarted by union insistence on over-manning. It was widely assumed that nothing could be done. The Labour government had cringed to union bosses, while Tory faint-hearts abounded.

By cajoling, persuading, arguing, and yes, no doubt, sometimes hectoring, Mrs Thatcher prepared and carried through Parliament a carefully-judged series of statutes

giving unions back to their members. In this, she had a majority of the public with her. In spite of some resistance and violence, trade union law reform was both popular and effective, and the private sector was transformed.

And so it was with our liberating policy after another. It was she who drove through the legislation to free us from pay, price, dividend and exchange controls. It was she who drove through the denationalization programme, the sale of council houses to tenants, the firm monetary programme.

Besides tackling the economy, she grappled with some great social issues. She set in hand steps towards the desperately needed raising of standards in the schools. She challenged the lawyers to provide better services to the public, and doctors to provide better access to health care.

And remember the Falklands! Note the strong strand of prin-

ciple throughout her domestic programme — set the people free, whether from controls, union despotism or arbitrary professional rigidities. What a pity that having quelled inflation, she allowed the fever, with its accompanying trade deficit, to revive. With hindsight, she should have replaced Nigel Lawson, in spite of his popularity.

The poll tax! Of course it should have been realized that many councils would take the chance both to spend more and to rebuild balances while blaming the Government. Of course the Government's invention of the safety net appalled Conservative councillors and voters without reconciling Labour ones. The new tax was introduced too hastily, without identifying and eliminating its some sags; ministry calculations were inaccurate.

But the poll tax will force

councils to provide good services economically — as the Audit Commission repeatedly shows can be done — if enough voters are hurt enough to use their votes to throw out loony councils and oblige non-loony but complacent councils to improve.

The Government faces a dilemma. The larger the rebates and subsidies it provides, the fewer voters will be hurt enough to vote out bad councils. Progressiveness conflicts with accountability. The smaller the number of people who have to pay for the loony left profligacy, the longer the loony left and those non-loony but not efficient enough councils — will carry on being extravagant.

Then there is the international dimension. Mrs Thatcher has become a figure respected across the world. She was the first among Western leaders to recognize and respond to the Gorbachev phenomenon. Who would question that

judgement now? But until his reforms are carried through, I should hardly wish to see a government in Britain permeated by neutralism and CND. She was equally the first to discover and encourage de Klerk's propensity for reform, and proved right in resisting the call for further sanctions against South Africa when reform was in the offing.

As a member of the cabinet which brought Britain into the EC, I support her stand on Europe. We disclaimed political union and a federal Europe. Her vision is of the EC as a closely-knit association of independent sovereign countries. British people of all backgrounds and politics would resist being swallowed up into a super-state.

One of Mrs Thatcher's greatest achievements has been the change in the Labour Party. Labour has gone some way towards abandoning socialism and subservience to

trade unions. But it has yet to come to terms with economic imperatives and their social implications. It is hard to believe that Labour is ready to stand up to important unions, particularly public-sector unions, or the professions, in favour of consumers. Labour may now pay lip-service to the market but it cannot bring itself to renounce Clause IV.

And I am one who wants an effective Opposition and potential alternative government, realistic about the framework necessary for a free society with a minimum of inflation, conflict and controls.

Labour still ominously promises a "partnership with business", as do some Conservatives, whose code-word has now changed from "Disraeli" to "Japan". I know as little about Japan as they do, but I do know that in Japan the partnership between government and giant firms and market sectors subordinates Japanese consumers

to vested interests. Few British people want that.

I think that Labour needs a further period of Conservative government under Mrs Thatcher before it will be a conceivable alternative government. Eleven years are not long to reverse the trends of generations. There are worries in many fields: low school standards, weakened family life, welfare abuse and violent crime are examples. Moreover, the achievements of the past 11 years will not be maintained without strong, sensible government.

The tasks ahead will call for the same combination of vision, persistence and inner strength to tackle vested interests and entrenched errors which Mrs Thatcher has already displayed, and which no one else could match. I have particular regard for several present and past members of the government with whom I have served. From among them, one or more potential prime ministers will emerge in due course. But for some time to come, for the reasons I have argued above, the country, government and party will continue to need Margaret Thatcher.

Lord Joseph was Industry Secretary, 1979-81, and Education Secretary, 1981-86.

Smell of the deadline, roar of the press

It is far too long since anyone hit a theatre critic; nowadays they don't even get banned. And the argument they have been having is most unlikely to lead to grievous bodily harm. Still, it is quite an interesting argument.

I think it began in the *Daily Telegraph*, which has scores of theatre critics, for some reason called Charles. Some of these urged the theatre managers to adopt the reviewing practice of the critics in New York, which is that they are allowed to see one of the last two or three previews, and write their notices from that performance, on the condition that these are under embargo until the morning after the official opening night. The reason for this indulgence is the difficulty experienced by the critics in getting their overnight reviews into the paper; the Broadway critics complain that a considered judgement is impossible with such deadlines, and theatre people endorse the complaint almost heartily. Our Critics' Circle, going over to the New York pattern, but has decided, for the present not to.

I think I am uniquely placed to take part in the debate. I have in my time been a theatre critic for more than 10 years all told — successively on the *Daily Express* and the *Daily Mail*, on both of which I invariably wrote overnight, immediately after the opening, and later on I was a Sabbath critic, on the *Sunday Times*, when of course (plays never open on a Saturday, or at least they never did when I was in the business) I had leisure to compose my review.

Curiously enough, the problem is substantially an economic one at heart. When I was a critic, plays destined for London were tried out in rough form, being polished

Bernard Levin, savouring his years as a theatre critic, joins the debate on reviews dashed off as the curtain falls

as they went, in the provinces; whence the familiar cry of managements who had flopped in Shaftesbury Avenue, "They loved us in Harrogate!". Some years ago, it became virtually impossible to tour before opening, as it had become prohibitively expensive, particularly for a big play or a musical. Reduced-price previews therefore replaced the tour, and somehow the fact that many playgoers had seen the play before it officially opened lessened the status of the First Night. At about the same time, the social atmosphere of the London theatre changed dramatically, when and because the play did.

I have lived through several theatrical revolutions, but none was as dramatic as the one ushered in by John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*; from then on, for those who had eyes to see, the old theatre, which had survived into the post-war world, was doomed; there was a beautiful irony in the fact that the first play written jointly by Hugh and Margaret Williams, who represented the past, was produced in 1956, the same year as Osborne's sensation.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

A transparent glass satellite dish, "designed", says *The Independent*, "to quell environmental objections to ugly metal and fibreglass versions defacing British buildings" will soon grace the market.

I do hope not. I hardly watch television but have decided to order a Sky receiver purely because I want one of those white dishes on the front of my house. Now that BSB is to market a square variant, I may get one of those, too. These dishes are, to my mind, aesthetically very pleasing: clean, unfussy lines with just a hint of sci-fi about them. Jules Verne meets Frank Lloyd Wright: far less obtrusive than the ghastly iron trelliswork with which conventional TV aerials disfigure roof lines.

Just as our age artificially reproduces fluted pillars (for which there is no longer any structural need) to recall the Regency era, so a future age will very probably place ornamental white dishes in front of buildings designed to recapture our own period. Purists of that age will complain when ignorant people mount these ornaments facing the wrong way. "Not authentic," they will say. "What was the white Elizabethan wall-saucer originally for?" will be a quiz-show question, for by then a small cube on your mantelpiece ("what was the mantelpiece originally for?") will receive any TV signal.

But for the foreseeable future, the dish is here to stay.

The Sunday Times reports) of whether the earth goes round the sun vice versa, be at any disadvantage. There will be a new folk wisdom.

White dish, by day or night: West to left, east to right

Burglar-alarm, burglar-alarm on the wall.

Who is the richest of us all?

For it is time folk wisdom moved with the folk. We used to hear, for instance, that one should never eat fresh oysters unless there was an R in the month. But did you know you should never eat tinned crab unless there are three E numbers on the label?

Each continent can contribute. In Peru, the horrific band of Maoist terrorists called The Shining Path stuff donkeys with dynamite, drive them into crowded markets, and detonate them. This is a means of registering protest at the peasantry's economic woes. As the economy has spiralled out of control and the Peruvian retail price index has recorded inflation at more than 2,000 per cent, popular discontent, and donkey explosions, have increased. Soon, political scientists of the fashionably mindless "catastrophe" school will present us with a new correlation: "As inflation reaches four figures, donkeys start to explode." British experience confirms this. Our inflation is in single figures, and the donkeys here do not explode at all.

Those who prefer to ride in cars know that the world of motoring, too, is developing a folk wisdom to match the age. It is widely appreciated that drivers of Austin Allegros wearing hats invariably drive in the middle of the road at 28mph and never indicate. Plastic cones on the hard shoulder of motorways always contain large Asian families. Plastic traffic cones ornamenting any part of any road mean "Nobody working on this stretch". These things, I think, are common knowledge.

But did you know that a Swedish-made car with a "Baby on Board" sticker in the back window always contains an independent reader?

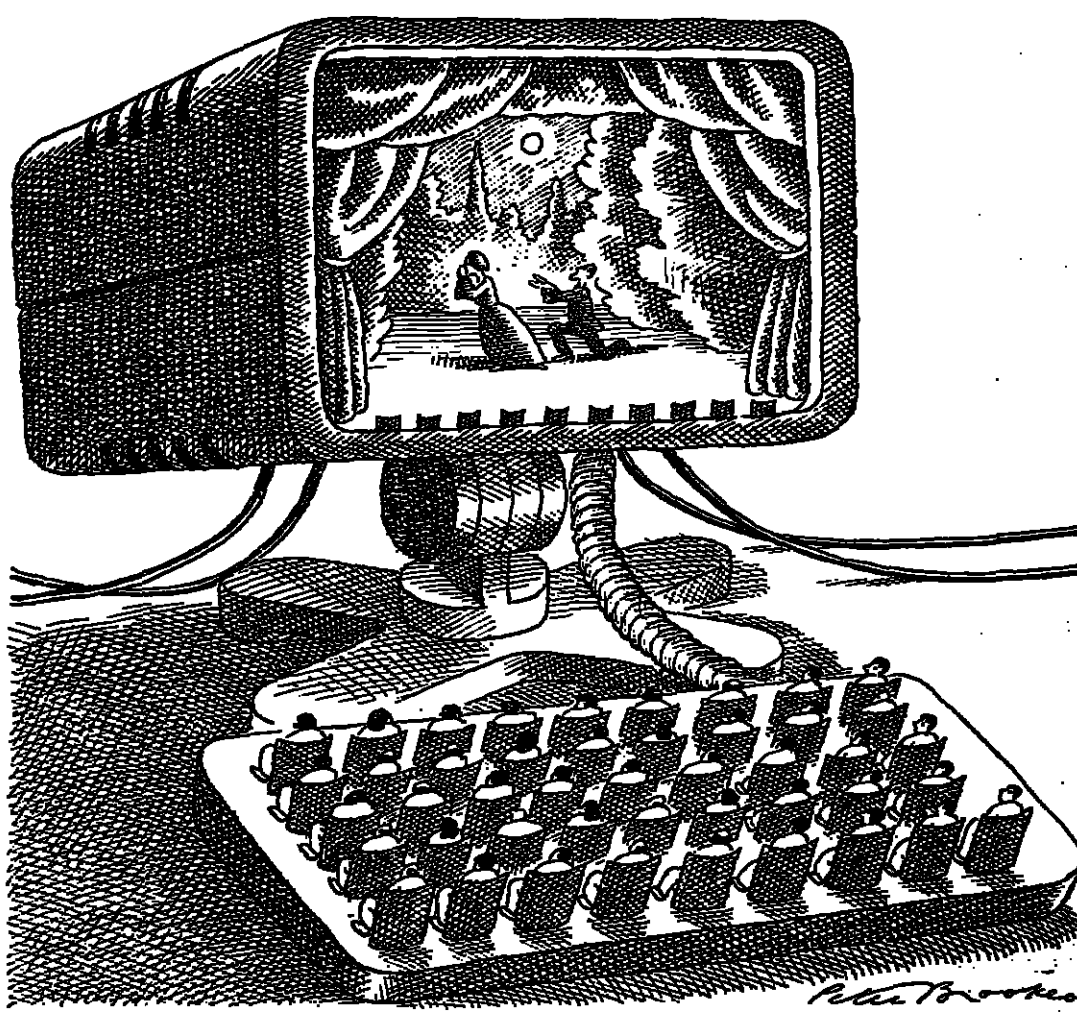
(Margaret Williams said: "We like to see people on the stage looking clean and well-dressed"; alas, she said it at the moment when the customers, never mind the cast, had ceased to look either clean or well-dressed, let alone both, and the very ideas of plays with smart characters was unthinkable.) Anyway, the point of all this is that as the nature of the theatre changed, so did that of the theatre-goers. First Nights (they really did use both capitals) glittered with the *beau monde* then: Charles Morgan, when he was the theatre critic for this newspaper, wore tails and a top hat, and even I, when first a critic, donned a dinner-jacket for significant openings, though very few of my colleagues did.

Once, in the stalls, I overheard a member of the audience declaring that he would never again read the *Evening News* because its critic, Felix Barker, a very jolly fellow and a good friend of mine, had arrived at a First Night not only clad in a jacket that did not match his trousers, but with a rolled-up newspaper sticking out of his pocket. (Many years later, when First Nights had become very down-market occasions, I occasionally wore a dinner jacket to, of all places, the Royal Court, but only to annoy Lindsay Anderson.)

When First Nights were still what they had been, everybody — my dear, everybody — went on to the old Caprice for dinner, and bitched the playwright, the director and everybody in the cast, especially those they had crowded their dressing-rooms at curtain-fall with cries of "Darling, you were wonderful!" True, it was not all roses. Noel Coward once told me the story of what happened to him after the First Night of a musical of his called *Pacific 1866*; this was the first show to be put on at Drury Lane after the war, during which it had been dark (tut in theatrical parlance, "dark" only means closed), and Coward was the obvious choice for the reopening of the oldest and most splendid of London's playhouses.

Unfortunately, on this occasion the Master had lost his touch rather comprehensively, and when he emerged from the stage door, he found something uncomfortable like a lynch mob outside the detail that stuck in my mind, as well it might, was that the cleaners to which he sent his dinner jacket found that all their skill was unavailing, so spat-upon had it been. When the show closed, it was followed by *Okla-homa!* which ushered in the years of the great American musicals; not long after, at the Coliseum, I was madly in love with Dolores Gray, in *Annie Get Your Gun*, and I still am. I don't reckon much to Lloyd Webber.

I am just too young for the days



when the playwright, as well as the players, took a bow after the curtain fell, but I certainly remember booing — it did not end when galleries did — it survives, oddly, only at the opera — and I remember the gallery well, from long before I became a journalist, let alone a critic. You would put down a curious wooden stool outside the gallery entrance, a cheat-proof form of queuing, because your stool had a number stuck to it. The most uncomfortable gallery seats were those at Covent Garden; the runner-up was the New, which is now the Albany. There was a Gallery First-Nighters Club, but the president of it invariably sat in the stalls.

Gradually, the insurgents conquered; gradually, therefore, the romance of the First Night faded and died. By then I had been a critic for some years, and some of the memorably hairy evenings had etched themselves on my soul. I recall very clearly indeed one of the very hairiest, not so much because it was bad (though in fact it was terrible), but because of its sequel; I have written about the play elsewhere, but never, I think, about what happened afterwards.

The star, now dead (*de mortuis*...) was returning to the legitimate stage after some years on the musical one. Understandably nervous about this debut, he had, before curtain-up, fortified himself with, I guessed, at least a bottle of the hard stuff, almost certainly not diluted with soda. He managed to get through Act One, though somewhat unsteady on his pins and more than somewhat slurred in speech, but shortly after the curtain rose on Act Two, he subsided gently to the floor, and did not rise again. After a strained pause, the curtain fell, and a member of the management came before it to announce that the unfortunate actor had been taken ill, and the remainder of the performance was cancelled. Rejoicing in the thought of an early night, I left; I was just getting into the taxi when I recalled that Philip Hope-Wallace, had fled the theatre at the interval, maintaining that he had seen quite enough on which to review it.

Now Philip also was a good friend, and one of the funniest and most interesting men alive; that plus *noblesse oblige*, meant that I could not possibly let him walk into catastrophe. I nipped into a call box (this was so long ago that

they worked) and rang the paper, asking to be put through to Mr Hope-Wallace. To my horror, the operator refused to comply; no, I could not speak to Mr Hope-Wallace, who never took calls when he was writing his notice. But Mr Hope-Wallace would want, I said, to be interrupted with the news I brought; nay, he needed to hear it for his own sake. No dice. I began to scream, rant and swear, and finally Mr Cerberus-Jobsworth put me through to an understandingly tetchy Philip, who rapidly became much less tetchy; it was the only time I have ever heard a man go white.

There was a similar case, this one concerning an actor who had been in America for many years, in films, and was therefore similarly making a second debut on the London stage. The play was set at Christmas time, and again, it was clear from Act One that the star had been gargling before curtain-up. He, too, got through the first half when the curtain went up on Act Two, however, the play called for him to be fixing the lights on the Christmas tree, and he was therefore, reasonably enough, prone on the carpet, understood to be fiddling with the socket and plug. But what we actually saw as the curtain rose was not the details

of the scene, but our hero lying on the ground, and eleven hundred people, simultaneously hissed "He's passed out!"

Mind you, the critics were not all tee-totalers; I don't suppose my other old mate Alan Brien will sue me if I recall a First Night when he arrived so monumentally plastered that he began, loudly to add lines to the play. It needed some, I can tell you.

With all these memories intruding, I seem to have wandered away from the argument, now over for the moment; should critics review "live" overnight, or go to previews and store their notices against the Press Night, as it is now feebly called? Well, I have written overnight, and also overwork. For an overnight reviewer, the time at his disposal is measured by two barriers, neither of which he can move. The first is, of course, the length of the play, and the second is the size of that night's paper (the fatter the paper the earlier the edition goes to bed). It so chanced that when I was first a critic, on a daily paper, the early weeks had plays which were almost all long, and the papers were almost all plump; I therefore found that I had some 25 minutes in which to embed the play in the crystal of my prose.

Now as any real journalist will tell you, the time you take in writing your article, is the time between when you start and the deadline, whenever the deadline happens to be. If I had had 15 minutes to write my notice instead of 25, it would have been written in 15 minutes, and if I had had 17 seconds, it would have been written in 17 seconds. (I am frightfully sorry if I am shocking some of you, and I am quite prepared for a flood of letters from actors and playwrights whom I have acted roughly in those days — there can be many keys — denouncing me for scamping their masterpieces, but the truth is the truth.) But the point is that when shorter plays and thinner papers left me not 25 minutes to write but, say 45, or even an hour, I was quite unable to start writing until the 25-minute mark had arrived; I spent the spare time wandering about the office eating digestive biscuits and interfering with my colleagues.

From that, you will deduce which side I was on. But I recognize that in this matter I am living in a nostalgic past, and in any case it is so long since I was a critic I really have no right to give an opinion. Anyway, I have run out of space, and even if I had more, I would not continue with the argument, but instead tell you the story of how, many years ago, I saved the then critic of *The Times* from choking to death.

Thatcher's blitzkrieg

Top civil servants are notoriously tight-lipped, and it is always something of an event when one breaks the Whitehall vow of silence. Those looking for controversial revelations will not be disappointed when Sir Anthony Part, who was permanent secretary in four government departments, "comes out" with the publication of *The Making of a Mandarin* next month. In it he will claim that Mrs Thatcher has systematically set about filling the upper echelons of the Civil Service with Tory placemen, applying the "one of us" test as rigidly to the appointment of senior non-political public servants as to her ministerial appointments.

The basic Thatcher approach is modelled on a German military textbook, says Sir Anthony. "Establish the *Schwerpunkt* (main thrust). Do not disperse your efforts. Do not worry if there are some untidinesses on the flanks; you can always clear them up afterwards." This requires not merely like-minded ministers but senior civil servants who are not only sympathetic but blessed with "the drive and enthusiasm" to implement Tory policies at speed. She is translating a philosophy into a revolution, "and revolutions are no time for delicate negotiations or pussyfooting around".

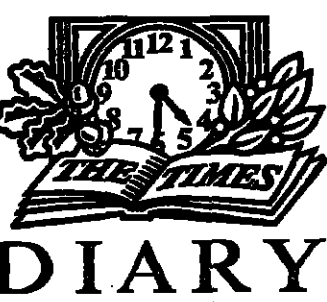
Sir Anthony, who reached the top rank of permanent secretary at the early age of 49, worked with leading figures on both sides of the political divide, from R.A. Butler to Tony Benn, and clearly believes that Mrs Thatcher's approach

represents a fundamental break with the traditional relationship between ministers and civil servants. Many of his colleagues were unhappy with the "My Prime Minister right or wrong" syndrome, he reveals, and says that some, on occasion, "felt that it would be a waste of time to produce statistics or advice which might tend to point in a different direction from ministers' ideas". The book also gives a clue to why Yes Minister became Mrs Thatcher's favourite television programme. It helped her in her drive to shake up Whitehall, says Sir Anthony, by "persuading the public that Sir Humphrey and his colleagues were true to life". In fact he insists in the very opening sentences that the book is not about the truth. But then he would say that, wouldn't he?

At least one government department seems set on living up to the Yes Minister image. When Francis Maude, the Foreign Office minister, gets bored during long meetings, he has taken to aiming a plastic clockwork toy across the table at his officials. Foreign Office types now fall into two categories: those who have the nerve to wind it up and send it back and those who pretend not to have noticed anything unusual.

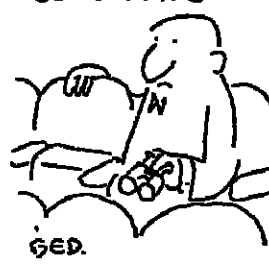
Take your seats...

While the Royal Opera House is seeking to reduce its £5 million deficit by restricting tickets to one seat instead of the customary two at opening nights, no such restriction has been applied to members of the great and the good on its free list. Heads of department will continue to receive a brace of first-



night tickets for "professional reasons". Jeremy Isaacs has four seats every night in the second row of the grand tier, which he gives back to the box office when not required for his friends. Worse, for five nights a week, the Opera House makes not a penny out of the prestigious Bedford Box, adjacent to the Royal Box, which is the private property of directors of the defunct English Property Company, from whom the Opera House freehold was purchased in the 1970s. The cut in the critics' allocation of tickets is estimated to save £72,000 a year. How much a reduction in in-house perks might save has yet to be revealed.

It's not so cosy Sans tulle



Taskforce Stanley

Can we really be approaching the tenth anniversary of the Falklands war? Indeed we are, and Hugh Scully, presenter of *The Antiques Roadshow*, has already started work on the definitive tenth anniversary documentary to be screened in 1992. Fresh from shooting the latest *Roadshow*, he flies to the South Atlantic today accompanied by a VIP roll-call of those household names of 1982: Admiral Sir John "Sandy" Woodward, Major-General Sir Jeremy Moore, Sir Rex and Lady Hunt, among others. Scully promises that his documentary will be far more than merely a military history of the campaign. "The untold story is a political and diplomatic one," he says. "We are going to delve more deeply." He will interview Caspar Weinberger and Alexander Haig, whose pro-British views had Reagan's ear at a critical moment, and Admiral Jorge Araya, a member of the Argentine junta at the time, who promises to reveal hitherto unknown details of his country's invasion plan. If it all lives up to its advance billing, the programme should give Tam Dalyell sufficient ammunition to keep asking questions well into the next century.

You never know

Since before the days of Nostradamus, there have been those who have pretended that prediction is a scientific art. The latest to take themselves just a little too seriously are the management consultants, P-E International, who have produced a series of "forecasters for the start of the

next century". Their crystal-ball gazing — sorry, analysis of likely "quantum changes and discontinuities" — has been "colated and analysed" by market research staff, to assist corporate planners in making long-term business projections. Fortunately, they have the sense to concede that some of their resident "experts" may have had their tongues "firmly inserted in cheeks". They surely did. While one can readily accept predictions of "huge business opportunities first in Eastern Europe and then in the Middle East", eyebrows will be raised at the idea of a "Greater Asian" team winning the 1999 Ryder Cup and at the 1998 rugby world cup seeing the mighty All Blacks beaten by a united German team. But things are kept just within the realms of possibility. There is absolutely no suggestion that England, even with Graeme Hick and the unlikely spectacle at the weekend of an Englishman scoring 300 runs in one day, will win a Test series against the West Indies by the end of the decade.

Easy to beat

On page 2 of today's paper you will see the new logo for the Metropolitan Police, which is being introduced as part of a £150,000 campaign to improve the tarnished image of London's bobbies. Frankly, it looks little different from the old one, and we are convinced that readers of *The Times* can come up with something much more appropriate to the changing nature of policing the capital in the 1990s. In the time-honoured tradition, a bottle of champagne for the most original entries.

ABLU...RRI

DRINK AND

THE

سكزامن الأصل



America's post-war strategy supported an open international economy, and subsidized a network of alliances to hold in check the two powers liable to dominate Europe: Germany and the Soviet Union. That strategy of double containment was an unqualified success.

Talk about building motorways to the European institutions of the future has become fashionable in the American State Department. Its thinkers should now concentrate on drawing a road map which distinguishes between functions. Their avenues of access will otherwise end up looking like that British muddle, Spaghetti Junction.

There is no easy way of preventing them from buying alcohol. British Rail can stop selling it on football trains: fans then make a beeline for the pubs on arrival. Clubs can ban the sale of it in the grounds: they can still arrive drunk. Pubs may be closed for two hours

While the football authorities will doubtless take the lion's share of brickbats for Saturday's events, the rest of the community cannot blame them entirely. If ministers and magistrates continue to encourage young people to get drunk, on the grounds that this is a free society and young people have always been boisterous, they cannot complain when they wreck Britain's towns and besmirch its reputation abroad.

Most subscribers should have no trouble in identifying Whitehall as Central London — thus qualifying for the coveted 071 — or placing Surbiton in

BT has spent around £30 million advertising the new system. Even so, its automatic voices will be over-worked informing callers (free of charge) of their dialling errors when Britons return to work tomorrow. Companies will cheerfully blame BT for failures to return calls. To greet change as an economic and social disaster is characteristically British. In its efforts to equip London for the future, BT deserves more sympathy than it has received.

From Mr Cyril Sherwood
Sir, It is possible that British
Telecom deliberately chose 071
and 081 to make *diary* changing
easy? 01 needs a short line at the
top of the 1 followed by a 1 to
make 071, and there is no problem
in changing an 0 to an 8 and
putting an 0 in front to make 081.
Yours faithfully,
CYRIL SHERWOOD,
Arundel Lodge,
271 Swakeleys Road,
Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

Yours sincerely,
MARK ROPER,
Forde Abbey,
Chard, Somerset.

Yours sincerely,
LOUIS FITZGIBBON (Hon Sec
 retary, Katyn Memorial Fund,
 1971-76),
 8 Portland Place,
 Brighton, Sussex.

As one of the most vociferous critics, I have to say that this is a travesty of my expressed views.

The original trial jury convicted the Six on two grounds, of which the first was that traces of nitro-glycerine had been found on the hands of two of them. The presiding judge (now Lord Bridge of Harwich) called this "absolute

From Mrs Margaret Fidler
Sir, The 19th-century historian, W. E. H. Lecky, showed how our circle of protection must increase with civilisation. From concern only with members of his own

Measure for measure

critical" in the case against them. At the appeal conducted by Lord Lane, however, this evidence was rightly and almost entirely rejected.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Yours truly faithfully,
ELIZABETH AYDON,
2 Daniel Road,
Whitchurch, Hampshire.

May 2.

organisation of the mind, of the

case in depth who is not totally convinced of the innocence of the Birmingham Six and who does not regard the Appeal Court's findings that the original verdicts were safe.

weight of evidence.
Yours etc.,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown,
Avebury, Wiltshire.
April 30.

Downs as a national park (Marion Shoard's article, April 28) one very important fact to be kept in mind is that its beauty is to a large extent man-made. The most prolific plant thereon is the thorn, and it was only generations of shepherds with their bill hooks that kept them at bay.

Yours faithfully,
HAMPDEN,
Glynde Place,
Glynde,
Lewes,
Sussex.
May 1.

A matter of taste
From Mr Roger Linn
Sir, I can help Mr Joseph Connolly (May 4) in his efforts to discover the constituents of a "full Welsh breakfast"

tion of seaweed cake. I narrowly missed the pleasure in January when hurricanes had caused the removal of seaweed from the menu.

You may imagine my disappointment.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER LINN,
Lower Rookery,
46 Lwes Road,
Ditchling, Sussex.

May 4.

Instant bad karma by the Mersey

Michael Gray went to Liverpool for Saturday's John Lennon Tribute Concert, but the event was a musical disaster, out of tune with his memory

In only five years, the music industry has transformed the rock-stars-for-charity mega-event from Bob Geldof's coherent effort to avert real tragedy to this self-serving, shifty enterprise by television marketing men. Liverpool City Council, Yoko Ono, the nebulous charity the Spirit Foundation, and an ill-assorted roster of artists, some of whom may even have been sincere. Poor Liverpool. Poor John Lennon. This tacky ragbag of a concert was surely the nadir of the "Live Aid" idea.

There had been hints in advance that all would not be well. The original Press pack — by Rogers & Cowan International — offered no information on the charity that was supposedly the event's *raison d'être*. Asked for details, they took a fortnight to offer three vague paragraphs and no financial breakdown. Nor was it announced very far in advance that some artists billed would appear only on video — minor names such as Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Ray Charles and Dave Stewart. Nor was any explanation offered for the non-appearance in any form of further acts such as Level 42, B.B. King and Herbie Hancock.

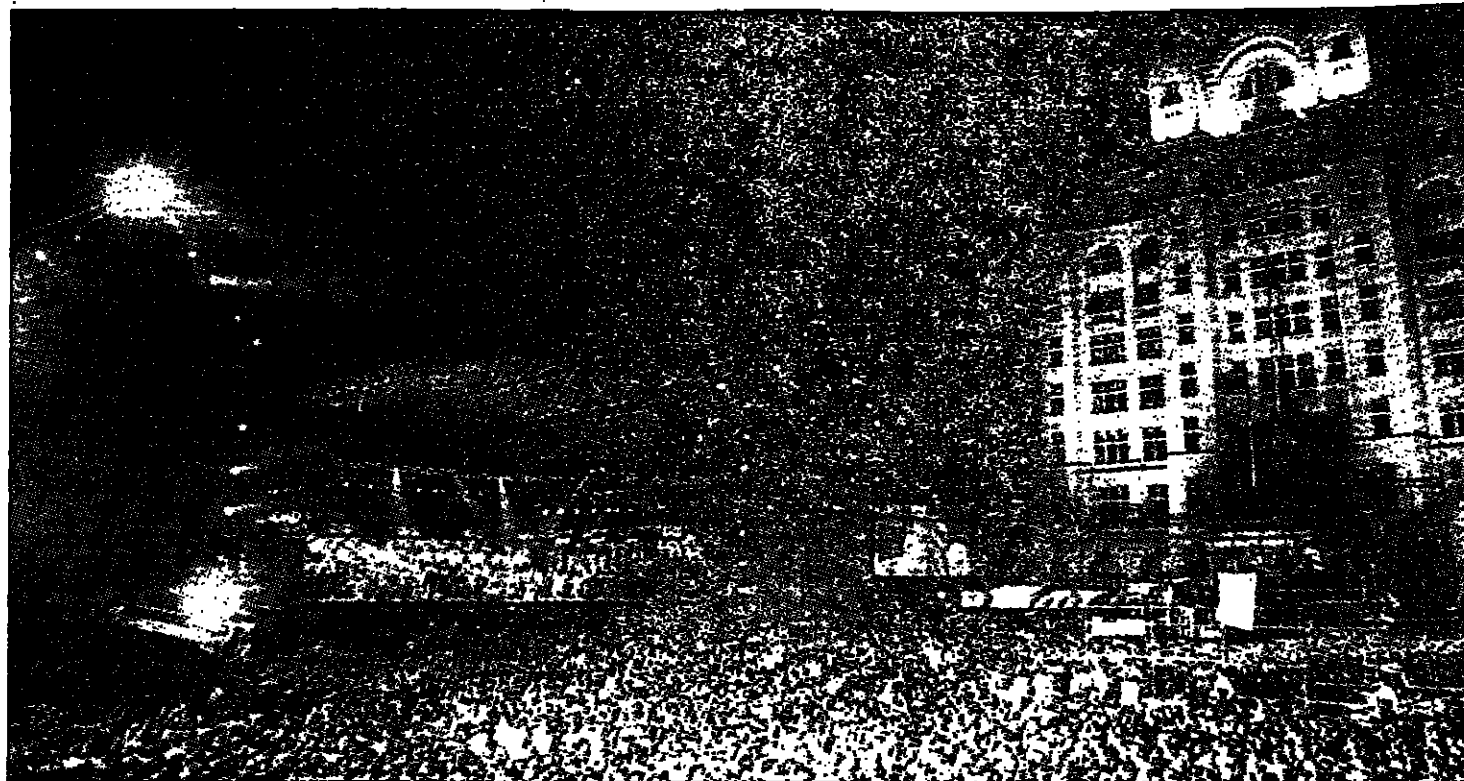
What was made clear all along was the keenness of Liverpool city council to exploit Lennon's name. "A tribute to the genius of John Lennon could only be held in Liverpool, his birthplace and the city which cradled his unique talent... Liverpool's gain is New

York and Los Angeles's loss." In other words, only Liverpool was desperate enough to need such a shoddy opportunity. The city that cradled Lennon's talent is the city that bulldozed the Cavern and has had to build a replica in its Jorvik-style Beatles Museum; the city that cradled Lennon's talent is the one the Beatles moved out of at the earliest possible opportunity, and to which Lennon never returned.

There is always something unpalatable about a city council trying to pretend that its heart beats as one with some *enfant terrible* whom time has tamed; but to witness Yoko Ono and Liverpool's city fathers jump into bed together in the name of peace, harmony, love, John Lennon's genius and the greening of the planet was unusually repulsive.

Cities suffering decline and deprivation often make up absurd myths about themselves, and Liverpool has been prominent among these. We are used to this most violently aggressive place boasting of its heart of gold; to its peculiar brand of whingeing being special-pleaded as a unique sense of humour; to its bottomless capacity for sentimentalizing itself while claiming a special northern toughness of mind. But not even "Tartan", Cilla or Derek Hatton could save Liverpool's litter-strewn, decrepit streets and call the place cleaned-up.

What had been done for this desperately hyped concert? They knocked down the pierhead bus-



Extras in a global television event? The scene at Liverpool's Pierhead on Saturday night, with the stage on the left.

stops to make room for the crowd, built a huge, temporary-looking stage and laid on a water-supply "because of the heat," as the council's event co-ordinator explained, "to enable the staff to hose down the crowd." In the freezing-cold event, being hosed down was about the only indignity the crowd avoided.

It soon became clear that far from having to pay £25 per ticket (as a result, sales were low; it is amazing how much bigger the crowd looked on TV than in real life), those who did attend should have been paid as extras for what was, essentially, a global-television exercise.

The bizarrely disparate co-hosts of this simulation of a live concert were Mike Read, the Radio 1 DJ and Christopher Reeve, star of the *Superman* films.

Read told the audience that they had to pretend to really be there: "... so we'll have an act on, give a big cheer, then we'll give it a bit of bunny while they fix the wires and then we'll have another big cheer so we get a nice edit for TV. But since you're all working for us tonight, that's great." Then Al Green sang "All You Need Is Love" and then Christopher Reeve came on to clear up the puzzle of why he was there: they wanted an American to pacify the

American TV audience. Thus was the Liverpool crowd given the tone of what lay ahead — phoney liveness on the one hand while on the other the gruesome, moribund format of playing video inserts before each performer came on, with this mish-mash of rockers and soul singers and pop stars intoning to the camera most sincerely on how John Lennon had inspired their whole lives.

As it was, the sheer mediocrity of it all was nearly as bad as the falsity. Kylie Minogue singing "Help" was not the worst of it; nor, I suppose was Dave Edmunds; nor Natalie Cole — the Patti LaBelle of the event —

bellowing "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds"; nor even Lou Gramm singing the awful "Eight Days a Week"; nor Ray Charles paying tribute to Lennon by singing McCartney's "Let It Be". The worst was probably the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra doing "I Am The Walrus". Imagine what Lennon would have thought of that.

If he had still been alive, I am perfectly certain that, like George Harrison, he would have had the instinct and taste to stay away. And if he had watched it on television and heard his songs sounding so bland and boring, he might have felt like killing himself.

Never mind fashion, listen to the bland

ROCK
Mike Nicholls

Heart
NEC, Birmingham

WITH the exception of habitués of trendy Manhattan, Americans adore adult-oriented rock (AOR). Bands such as Fleetwood Mac, Journey and Foreigner have been highly successful for years, playing to stadiums full of fans of all ages. Qualification for AOR immortality requires releasing albums of giant, soaring, heart-rending melodies and displaying a standard of professionalism which transcends everyday personal traumas such as broken relationships and months spent in detoxification clinics. Indeed, such problems as these, although not common to all the successful AOR bands, may serve to inspire further masterpieces of angst and tear-jerking guitar solos.

Enter Heart, fronted by sisters Ann and Nancy Wilson. Over the past 15 years they have sold 45 million albums and are enjoying the latest of a handful of Top 10 hits in the UK. "All I Want To Do Is Make Love To You". This and the fact that they are able to attract 30,000 fans to concerts in Birmingham indicates Heart have

a substantial following in the UK. They might not dominate the pages of the rock press, like the infinitely more fashionable Jesus Jones or Hothouse Flowers, but somebody out there likes them. In the Midlands, this silent majority crosses at least two generations and is dearly attired, badly coiffed.

The audience is a reflection of the people on stage, whose sloppy Seventies look confirms that Heart could never have been made in Britain, nor even self-consciously hip New York. It reflects the fact that they are based on the West Coast, where music has always been more important than image.

Songs such as "If Looks Could Kill" and "The Night" are as simple and well structured as the set itself, which makes good use of contrast. For example, the epic ballad "These Dreams" is followed by the heavier "Who Do You Run To?". The rather bloated vocalists, Ann, curiously resembles a larger Marie Helvin.

The crowd, without actually going berserk, was on its feet throughout, becoming marginally more animated when Nancy and the other guitarist interlocked limbs for a spirited rendition of "Crazy". Serious applause was reserved for the 1987 anthem, "Alone", and the curtain closing on their current hit.

Mishima's sailor meets his musical match

OPERA
Stephen Pettitt

Das verratene Meer
Deutsche Oper, Berlin

THE obvious question has, of course, already been asked. Why has the determinedly socialist Hans Werner Henze chosen to make his new opera, *Das verratene Meer*, from a novel by an extreme right-wing nationalist?

The answer is not difficult. Yukio Mishima's *The Sailor Who Fell From Grace With The Sea*, with its scenes of sex and voyeurism, disillusionment and cold-blooded murder, is purely and simply ripe material for operatic treatment.

It may have none of the sharp-edged social satire of, say, *The English Cat*, or the imposing epic qualities of *The Bassarids*. But it is a compellingly torrid domestic drama, concerning the passionate love of a widow, Fusako Kuroda, a seaman, Ryuji Tsukazaki, his lack of real enthusiasm for a naval life, and the reactions of Fusako's adolescent son, Noboru, who is also a member of a sinister little gang.

Henze, his producer Götz Friedrich, and Hans-Ulrich Treichel, who forged the libretto from the novel, have together got the formula for this translation to the opera stage just about right. I can think of no other score by Henze

which is more captivating on a first acquaintance.

Act I evokes brilliantly, even luridly, the physical ardour of the lovers and the masturbatory torment of the eavesdropping son. Henze's rich scoring, with its vast and busy percussion department, is used to generate a feeling of frenetic neurosis, so that by the climax of the act, when Noboru's gang ritually murders a cat, the pulse is set racing by the sheer density and dizzy momentum of it all.

For Act II the music, again cast in an alternating sequence of tableaux and orchestral interludes, moves to a different psychological

plane, where the pace appears to slow but the intensity — because of the concentration on the inner most thoughts of individuals — actually increases. A feeling of the inevitability of Ryuji's downfall is slowly accumulated, until the final, eerily tense scene, where a machine-like music, heard above a throbbing pedal note, takes over.

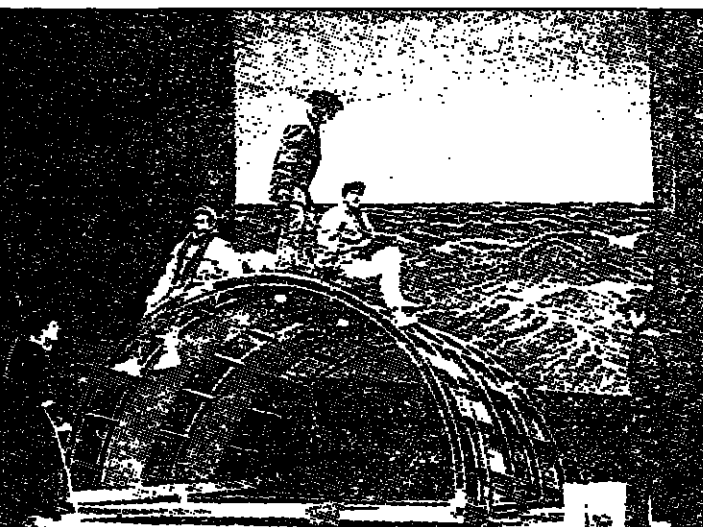
Friedrich has staged the work quite brilliantly, with strong, geometric shapes, and making full use of the Deutsche Oper's concentric revolving platforms. Huge, curved screens in green, black, and, increasingly as the work progresses, red, hide and reveal each other, making a stage area which is al-

most infinitely flexible in design. The most prominent emblem of the production is what at first appears to be a disjointed circle of light. Its two halves ingeniously come closer together to form the unmistakable shape of an eye: the peephole of Noboru.

The whole set is atmospherically lit by Hans Hoffer; suggestive half-lights in the explicit sex scenes, starker white pools for the gang's wasteland playground or the docks. The outside locations are set against a back projection depicting the sea or, in the end, some mountainous and polar landscape.

The first night cast was increased by one, thanks to the vocal indisposition of Stephanie Sundine. Beverley Morgan sang the role of Fusako from the side of the stage, at short notice but with an amazing confidence, while Sundine was miming. Ryuji was Andreas Schmidt, whose richness of voice grew steadily as the evening went on, while Noboru's nervous, tempestuous emotions were reflected effectively by Clemens Bieber's high, lyrical tenor.

Martin Gantner, leaning on one crutch, was chillingly authoritative in the role of Nummer Eins, leader of the gang, while David Knutson, Ralf Lukas, and Friedrich Molsberger combined rebelliously in their grotesque close harmony as his underlings. Orchestral triumph, thanks not least to the dynamic conducting of Markus Stenz.



Brilliant staging: a scene from *Das verratene Meer*

Nice music, shame about the ploy



Bonnie Moore and Sam Armstrong in *Game*

DANCE

John Percival

Game
Sadler's Wells

WILLIAM Tuckett's new work for Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet uses Debussy's *Jeu*, and it is as always a pleasure to hear that music — which was recently played by the company's own orchestra, with Stephen Lade conducting.

Tuckett's interpretation of it, however, is a bizarre one, based on a pun possible only after translation into English and reduction from a game of cards to a singular game. In this way there are hunted creatures (game equals *gibier*) as well as a nasty party game.

This is a very clever dodge,

giving the ballet the appearance of originality, although what he has really done is to combine two clichés: the one about people in a white room with a door that mysteriously opens and closes, and the one about people turned into birds.

Stephen Meah's designs cleverly help both aspects, the costumes subtle in their avian implications, the room handsomely distorted in its perspective. There are threateningly corrupt colours hidden behind curtains, to be revealed at rather too many key moments.

Within this frame, Tuckett arranges his action with a flair for production which explains why the Royal Ballet is backing this young man's aspirations so hopefully. The guests at the mysterious party behave with appropriate alarm or threat; Bonnie Moore and Tony Fabre are good as the badly behaved couple who bring menaces and what looks like rape. But if what is looked for in a would-be choreographer is original movement rather than cleverness ideas, it has to be searched for rather hard.

Even the ideas depend more on obscurantism than sense. Towards the end, several of the characters mime that they have no idea what is going on, a circumstance in which much of the audience must heartily have concurred.

When the host (an excellent performance by Kevin O'Hare, all frustrated innocence in his spectacles and white clothes) is left alone at the end, the audience sees the symbolism of the stains that have appeared on the back of his jacket, but probably has no idea what the evil is that has corrupted him.

The new work was well danced; the rest of the programme had some weak links in its cast, but Mireille Bourgeois's very light jumps and arm positions in *Les Sylphides* fascinatingly gave a closer idea than usual of how Fokine's choreography relates to his historic French inspiration.

High price of profit from pain

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Mother Courage
Glasgow Citizens'

Mother Courage into what Jackson indisputably is: wretchedly short-sighted, at times wickedly wrong-headed.

It is hard at first to believe that she is a weather-battered gypsy. The face is oddly pale beneath the gold ear-rings and red headscarf. There is even something histrionic about her big, crude laugh and truculent swagger. Her customary rasp rises to an aggressive croon which too operatically signals Courage's confidence in her vulnerability.

Yet it is not long before disillusion and emotional truth have come to stay. Jackson brings a marvellous blend of toughness, pain and inarticulate horror to the famous scene in which she babbles

for the life of her younger son, then is forced to pretend she does not recognize his corpse. Her face crumples, twists, gapes, its pallor now working for her. For a terrible instant, we could almost be seeing the stricken horse in Picasso's "Guernica".

Philip Prowse is responsible for both direction and designs. That turns out to mean that his production veers towards the painterly, perhaps at the expense of the supporting performances, which are adequate only. Why the endless parade of arrogant or hurt figures — such as a dispossessed woman with baby, a goose-stepping soldier followed by crawling peasant girl, son dragging mother's body — behind the action itself? It is a case of the backstage upstaging the downstage. Unnecessary, since Brecht is hardly reticent about war's brutality.

Nothing could finally distract one from Glenda Jackson, whether denouncing the wolfishness of her enemies with a decidedly wolfish snarl or cackling with



Glenda Jackson: pale gypsy

brassy glee at the collapse of a trust which menaces her business, or allowing just a touch of tenderness for her dumb daughter to vary the emotional picture, or, at the end, dragging beaten and blank-faced into the snow.

Certainly, she does not let the audience miss Brecht's point. No one can profit from suffering without being damaged, perhaps destroyed. Now there is a message which the prospective Labour candidate for Hampstead will never convey so powerfully in Parliament.

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Jeremy Kingston

Hand Over Fist
Watermill, Bagnor

about the pressures on money-spinning City folk seemed at first too close to what one might call, if a touch unfairly, Guildford fare. Cosy comedies, cosy thrillers, cosy farces, amiable shows that treat the audience like Bagnor cats, who never expect to have their fur rubbed the wrong way.

Against a French windows and garden set, so naturalistic it was tempting to go up in the interval and pick at the ivy, two idling builders are sunbathing instead of getting on with the kitchen extension. On comes Sheila Allen as the anxiously protective wife of stockbroker Francis Matthews, recovering from a heart attack.

Details of everyone's lifestyle are carefully dressed with lightly humorous remarks, meant to imply civilized values, though often mechanically applied. Just as you start longing for something more abrasive, the author comes out with his up-to-the-minute theme: why does a man who admits he needs no more money drive himself into an early grave because he cannot say "Enough"?

Sheila Allen urges him to stop, but her granite meets his mercury. Sliding round the issue with displays of charm — something Matthews has no difficulty suggesting — it is only in the couple of three-o'clock-in-the-morning scenes that the husband tentatively looks into himself.

Everett's most intriguing character is the huskily apologetic sister-in-law; she cannot work out why her feckless husband's schemes always fail, but senses

that something is wrong with the entire money system. In her fractured ravings, linking several themes, Everett's writing catches the darting motions of a mind skidding all over the shop.

Hetty Baynes, resisting the easy option to make the character mere fluff, gives an irresistible portrait of someone whose heart, if not her mind, is in the right place: serious, distraught, and unconsciously funny at the same time. Here, the balance is absolutely right.

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Ladies never lose their class

When it emerged last week that the Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances — Patron, the Queen — was having trouble finding enough ladies in reduced circumstances on whom to bestow its benevolence, the question of what constitutes a suitable applicant raised its head.

Were there simply not enough "ladies", as defined by Edith Smallwood, the spinster who founded the society in 1886 and raised funds for it by selling needlework and embroidery, left to justify the munificence made possible by the £300,000 annual income from investments now worth £7.5 million?

And how strictly does the society, and society in general, now define a lady in distress? The difficulties are as great, it seems, as picking a princess by placing a pea under a pile of mattresses.

"We didn't create the terms. Our job is to carry out the wishes of the good lady," says James Croft, a trustee and spokesman for the society, which is based in the genteel haven of Malvern in Worcestershire. Miss Smallwood's Charity, as it was once known, specifies "ladies of British nationality genuinely in need, irrespective of social status. They must be unmarried — spinster, divorced or widowed — and I don't think it can apply to unmarried mothers." Mr Croft says. "Not just because unmarried mothers wouldn't be ladies, but because there are other institutions looking after them. We mean ladies who have seen better times — perhaps the widow of a doctor or a diplomat."

"Applicants can apply themselves, or are referred to us by doctors, social workers and relatives. We can give applicants up to £520 a year before it affects any DSS payments they receive. We can make up nursing and residential home fees, and we pay for telephones for all our ladies who still live in their own homes."

The telephone of the Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association has scarcely

Are our gentlefolk an endangered species?

Alexandra King reports

stopped ringing since the news about the Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances slipped out. "People get us confused," Robin Tuck, its appeals secretary, says, "because there were so many mentions made of 'gentlewomen' and 'distresses' and we're in the London directory and they're not. We have been getting all sorts of women ringing us up saying, 'We hear you've got all this money to give away.'"

But not the right sort, apparently. Has Mr Tuck's organization also got money going begging? No, he says. "Although we've got rather more than them, our annual running costs are £7 million and we have a staff of 400 in the homes we run and some 40 in headquarters. They don't have homes, I don't believe — and they don't advertise as much as we do, which is how we get the legacies which make up half our income."

The DGAA has waiting lists for its services in the south-east corner of England. "This is where most of the demand comes from," Mr Tuck says, "but there are no waiting lists in Dorset or Berkshire." As the population ages, the association is launching an appeal to put up nursing beds. Applicants are allowed to have up to £160,000 capital assets and yet still seek assistance in living in the style to which they were accustomed.

So how would the DGAA define a lady? Mrs Elizabeth Finn, who founded it in the 1890s, would have had no doubt. Mr Tuck says. "She had a very sharp notion of social standing. She was the widow of a consul who took up charitable interests and noticed sad cases of what she called 'distressed gentlefolk' and got ladies like herself together for 'conversations' or concerts so she could raise money for them."

"She built up the organiza-

tion with her daughter and they got Princess Christian, Queen Victoria's daughter, as their patron. Our present patron is the Queen Mother and the Duchess of Kent. And while there are nothing but titled and landed gentry on our committees, the people we help are in an in-between class, not covered by anyone else."

The DGAA takes into account "the background and way of life of the person concerned, who can be a British or Irish national of either sex, irrespective of religion or political creed," Mr Tuck says.

"The committee thinks very hard about whether this person would fit in with other distressed gentlefolk. Has she had a smattering of education so that she can talk to them? Culture is quite important, and there is a strong social element to it — like whether you can play bridge and whether you drink sherry rather than beer."

Such niceties matter more than whether someone has "fallen by the wayside" in more than just the financial sense, Mr Tuck says. But ultimately, he says, "you simply know a lady when you see one."

Major Douglas Sutherland, author of *The English Gentleman*, *The English Gentleman's Wife*, and *The English Gentleman's Mistress* — all published by DeBrett's — agrees. Provided, of course, the judge is another lady or gentleman. "I can tell a lady across a room," he says. "It's an indefinable thing. It has to do with the way she holds her head — high, but not imperiously. Relaxed. Women who aren't ladies always look over-anxious. Assurance is the hallmark of a lady."

A woman from any walk of life becomes a lady if she marries an acknowledged gentleman, according to Major Sutherland. But if an acknowledged lady marries a cad, does he become a gentleman? "No, he does not!"

Being a lady has little to do with how you dress, insist both Major Sutherland and Harold Brooks-Baker, the publisher of *Burke's Peerage*. "Style is unimportant to a lady," Mr Brooks-Baker says. "But she is never vulgar."



"You simply know a lady when you see one": two examples of a very British refinement

If clothes do not make the man, neither do gloves and hats a lady, nor mini skirts and fishnet tights a tramp. "You can't gain, or lose, class by the way you dress," Major Sutherland says. "Just look at the daughters of the chap who runs Monaco — they wear the most frightful clothes but they never lose their class, even though their mother was an American actress. Grace Kelly came from a very rich family, but you can't call rich Americans ladies."

According to Major

Sutherland's rules, Princess Grace was automatically raised to ladyhood by her marriage to a prince. But, in order to do so, she had to sacrifice her career.

"A gentleman," Sutherland says, "is essentially an amateur. So is a lady."

Mr Brooks-Baker believes that "the real meaning of being a lady or a gentleman today is much closer to the way it started 200 years ago than it has been. In the

17th century it meant someone who was able to help other people, someone sympathetic and interested, and in those days one might have had to be rich in order to do so."

Today, good birth or fortune need only be a lucky addition to other ladylike qualities, Mr Brooks-Baker says. "Lady Olga Maitland is a lady not because she is titled, or because she is rich — which she isn't — but because she's a nice person."

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Public face of the bad losers

Is anything to be gained by being a good sport and keeping your upper lip stiff?

If you can meet with triumph and disaster, and treat those two impostors just the same, then you are clearly a senior politician. Last week's local elections precipitated the usual spectacle of all three major parties claiming victory. It is the nearest that modern politics gets to the idea of being a good loser: simply refuse to admit that you have lost at all.

At a local level, however, some results were enlivened by startling displays of bad losership. Notably there was the swipe from Fiona Macgarratt, the Labour leader in Wandsworth, south-west London, who lost her seat. "They can bribe them here, but they can't bribe the rest of the country," Ms Macgarratt scoffed. All she lacked was a set of black moustachios to twirl and she could have played the thwarted villain of any melodrama. Eric Pickles, Tory ex-leader of Bradford Council, didn't quite manage to compose his face into a good-loser smile either, and Charlie Smith, fighting Lady Porter in Westminster, resorted to an un-Churchillian version of the V-sign.

There may be a social trend here, worth pondering in the next few weeks of school sports days, when countless parents will be trying to instil in their small children the social grace of not biting people when you come last. It seems to have grown less important to be a good loser. Tennis players stamp and curse at Wimbledon, cricketers refuse to leave the crease gracefully, scorned lovers no longer emigrate to nurse a broken heart on a coffee plantation, and every sacked disco-jockey or passed-over newscaster opens his heart to the nearest newspaper. But the British virtue of losing gracefully seems to have gone out of fashion: asserting your anger is all the rage.

Perhaps — perish the thought — women are slightly to blame: certainly the clear-sightedness and lack of pomposity front which characterize modern women politicians can lead to a shortage of sportsmanship. When Harriet Harman won the Peckham Parliamentary by-election in

1982, crushing Dick Taverne beneath her chariot wheels, she even managed to be a bad winner: in her acceptance speech she said acidly that the SDP had no principles and had run "a very nasty campaign", trying to undermine her for being pregnant.

Certainly the great masters of graceful losing in politics are all in the past, and all male. The sack or untimely resignation brought out the very best in them. Take Anthony Eden, wandering around the Commons car park saying vaguely: "The worst of being sacked is you can never find your car." Or Rab Butler observing that: "After all, it's not every man who nearly becomes Prime Minister of England." Or Reginald Maudling teasing his one-year-senior successor with: "There comes a time in every man's life when he must make way for an older man." These chaps made an art of adjusting their self-deprecation to the point of optimum charm. They were buoyed up by the sort of Britishness defined by E. M. Forster as never showing enough emotion to make your mouth open far enough for your pipe to fall out. Women, I fear, are not very good at this.

Anyway, one does not want to snub the loyal voters and the hard-working campaigners by losing with too light a laugh. One former councillor, bounced from her seat last week, snapped at a reporter and later regretted it. She told me mournfully that she had felt "like a tigress defending my cubs".

There must be an answer: maybe the way for a canny loser to avoid both undue self-deprecation and pettish bad-losing is to go right over the top. One might model one's speech on Douglas MacArthur's words to Congress after President Harry Truman had sacked him as commander in chief of the United Nations forces in Korea: "I address you neither with rancour nor bitterness in the fading twilight of my life, but with one purpose in mind. To serve my country."

Libby Purves



Signs of life: for women in their prime, fashion does not have to be a grey wasteland

Fashion's mid-life crisis

The fashion industry is facing a mid-life crisis. As young British fashion students have been warned: "Fashion is no longer synonymous with youth. By the end of the decade, 35 to 44-year-olds will dominate the population and by the year 2015 the majority of us will be over 45..."

This prediction has set the scene for the 1990 Royal Society of Arts Student Design Awards, to be presented tomorrow, which each year attempt to pinpoint a gap in the fashion market or a future problem for students to tackle. Shorn of shoulder-pads but not yet ready for "New Age" fluidity, the mature woman — and the fashion industry — will flounder without a new direction, the RSA says.

The High Street, like high fashion, has been targeted at a dwindling population of young people. Now a new customer must take priority.

"This age group does not think of itself as middle-aged, nor does it wish to buy clothes in shops for the 'older lady'," the students were told. "You are asked therefore to research what 35 to 44-year-olds actually wear and then produce a minimum of 25 inspirational ideas for dresses and separates."

But only 98 out of 320 entries for the coveted travel and placement bursaries chose to produce capsule collections of "Fashion for Mid-Life", the first of two briefs. And those that did highlighted the crisis the mid-life market is facing. For only a handful reflected any understanding of the fashion needs — and desires — of women in

Designers and shops are having to cater for a new, older customer

the prime of power and potential.

The panel of experienced fashion professionals — including two women aged more than 40, Sylvia Ayton of Wallis and Patricia Hamilton of John Lewis — examined the projects with as much amusement as bemusement. "They make their women look like 60 or 70," chuckled the chairman, Martin Moss, the former managing director of Simpson's of Piccadilly. "But these women are Nancy Reagan — not Barbara Bushes — although some of them have white hair."

"They do not know where mid-life is," said Ms Ayton, aged 52, who dresses in mini skirts and pixie boots. "It is just somewhere between youth and death."

A grey wasteland, it seems, with dull, demure designs draped in camouflage middle-aged spread and blending with grey hair and skins — enlivened by the odd Costa Brava cruise collection for Joan Collins types, with halter-necked tops, plicated swing-back jackets and trousers in vibrant colours.

One of only four finalists in this category, Helen Hawkins, aged 22, of Ravensbourne College in Kent, took mushrooms as her theme, with close-ups of the wrinkled fungi juxtaposed against mushroom-coloured pleated skirts and long sweaters for a look

that echoes the easy American executive dressing of Donna Karan and Anne Klein. She was the only one of the four to win a bursary — a six-month placement with John Lewis, whose team of judges admired the wearable simplicity of her work.

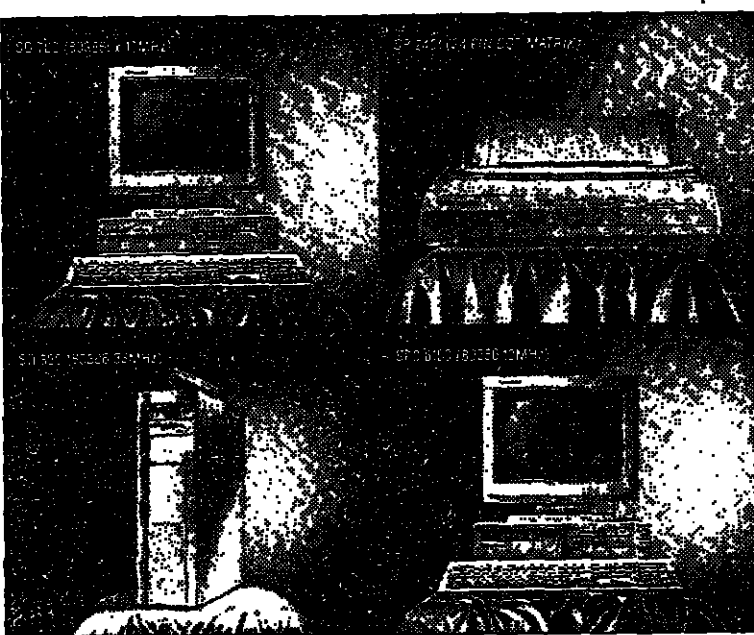
Whereas the clothes the students designed for themselves and their peers for the more popular second brief, "Fashion in the Doldrums", are thigh-high, bright and futuristic, those for the thirty and fortysomethings drag below the knee, often in the high-waisted, hobble-skirted style of the First World War.

Another finalist, Hazel Lowe, aged 37, of Dorsetshire College of Higher Education, one of the few mature students in the competition, explained: "I wanted it to be feminine but purposeful, which is why I looked to the era of the suffragette — of women making a move. But I think it is hard for younger students to imagine anything past their mid-twenties."

Michael Jones, design co-ordinator for Marks & Spencer, and one of the judges, believes the trick is to offer clothes that "make women feel contemporary without feeling fashion victims". Being 30, 40 or 50, Mr Jones argues, does not mean losing your adventurous spirit.

There is a growing realization among retailers, the judges agreed, that the core customer, as Marks & Spencer calls her, is no longer necessarily the "Cot" customer, and must be catered for with greater tact, imagination and respect.

Victoria McKee



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Britain is quietly producing champions in two unusual sports: octopush and Thai boxing

The games women play

Octopush, also known as underwater hockey, is not one of the world's great spectator sports. Since the action takes place underwater, all you see from the top are backs and bottoms, the occasional flick of a flipper, and what look like dead bodies floating face down on the surface of the swimming pool.

Despite these disadvantages, the British women's octopush team, the European champion, is seeking £15,000 sponsorship to fund its attempt at the world championship in Montreal at the end of this month. When not in the water training, Clair Stratton, the captain, has spent the last six months writing letters and visiting potential backers. "It's not really my line, I'm a sculptor," she says. And she has not been particularly successful: so far the team has raised only £3,000.

The problem is partly that octopush is virtually unknown in this country. The game has two teams of 10 players, six of whom may be in the water at one time, and is played on the bottom of a swimming pool. Players wear masks, snorkels, flippers, water polo caps (to protect their ears) and gloves (to protect their hands); they use 12 inch bats to move a lead puck along a 25 metre "field" into goals nine feet wide.

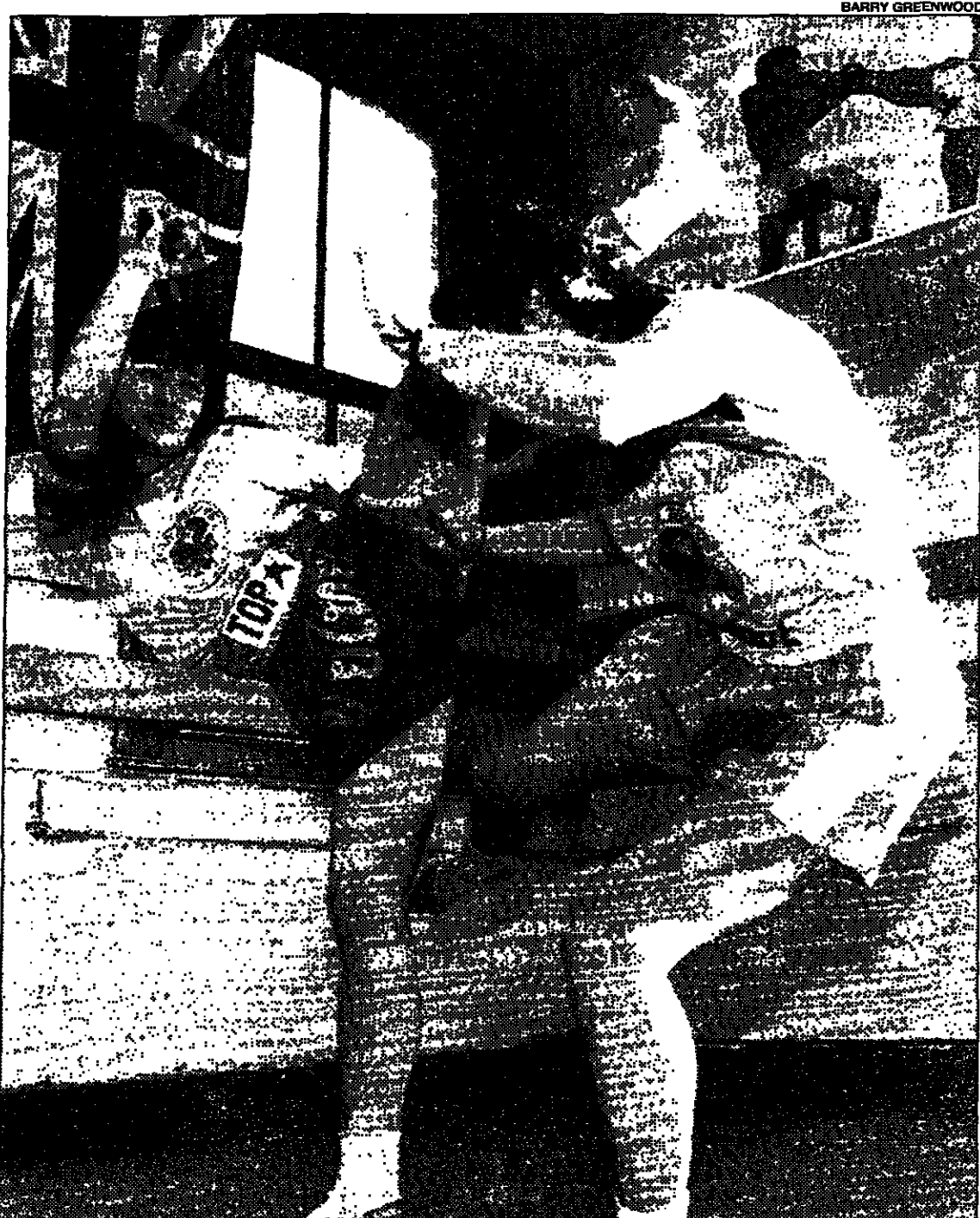
A further deterrent to sponsors is that when people do see it, they find it comical. "When people first see it they can't stop laughing; they think it looks ridiculous," Sian Evans, a member of the British team, says.

Octopush was started 36 years ago in Southsea, Hampshire, as a way for scuba divers to keep fit during winter, and has spread to 120 clubs in Britain and 20 other countries.

Add to the ignorance and the comic image the fact that any sponsor's logo would be submerged during play, and it is not so surprising that the team is having a hard time arousing interest. Yet octopush is an exciting game.

What you see, under the water, is a tangle of legs, arms and bodies as players fight for possession. All the time there is the drama of just how long a player who looks like scoring can hold her breath. The answer is "between 30 seconds and a minute," Ms Evans says, "although the key thing is actually a good recovery rate to be able to hold your breath for 20 seconds, come up for a breath, and dive again".

The women train daily, in any pool that will allow mask and flippers, swimming alternate lengths above and below the water for at least 45 minutes. They spend weekends training with Ted Drake,



Ring of confidence: arms and legs fly as Ella Lee and Anne Quinlan test their skills in Thai boxing

their coach, who expects them to do two lengths underwater every five lengths. "It's like playing squash holding your breath," Ms Evans says.

Octopush is also quite dangerous. "You almost have tunnel vision because of your mask," Ms Stratton says. "You can turn and not realize you've bumped another player on the back of the head. The puck's pretty heavy and a lot of new-

comers say they are worried about the danger."

Elly Cove, a schoolgirl from Rothwell, Yorkshire, and at 17 the second youngest member of the national team, plays in defence, so her fingers are particularly vulnerable. "I think I must have broken my forefinger, because it won't go back into shape," she says. "But you mustn't be afraid of being hurt. We all play with men, and they go in harder."

The sports centre at Crystal Palace, south London, has the only British pool with viewing windows suitable for octopush. But even this is not wholly satisfactory — it is fine when the players are on your side of the pool, but it becomes impossibly murky when they move to the other side. At the world championships, and in countries where the game is taken seriously — Canada, Australia and New Zealand — underwater cameras relay the action to big screens around the pool.

The British women feel it is bad enough that the sport is not taken seriously; they are even more aggrieved that where it is recognized, they are seen as second-class players — despite the fact that all the internationals play for leading men's clubs, and have displaced

male players to get into teams.

"The men are stronger, but we can certainly compete in terms of fitness and skill," Ms Stratton says. The women expect their toughest competition in Montreal from New Zealand, the United States and Australia, the countries which beat them at the last world championships in The Netherlands two years ago. Since then, though, they have acquired a new coach, and believe they have improved in speed and endurance. The team members range in age from 15 to 30 and in size from petite to hefty. They are extremely fit.

Ms Stratton wishes the sport could attract more young women from swimming clubs. "If we could interest swimmers, we'd really have a lot of talent to choose from." They all say what they get out of it most is exhilaration. "You develop a sixth sense: you're in another element, so it's really weird when things are rolling and you can sense what's happening behind and above you," Ms Stratton says. It is also exhilarating to watch, but the national players fear that most people here will never have the opportunity.

Geraldine Bedell

JUST FOR KICKS

At the age of 12, when most girls are busily modelling themselves on Madonna or Kylie Minogue, Ella Lee's role models were Rocky Balboa and Bruce Lee. When, at the age of 11, Anne Quinlan applied to join the Oldham Boys' Boxing Club, she was laughed off the premises. Undaunted, she enrolled in martial arts classes, and within weeks was sparring with the toughest boys in the gym.

Ms Lee, now an 18-year-old student, is the world flyweight champion in Thai kickboxing. Ms Quinlan, aged 22, a teacher, holds the European flyweight title. "Until I saw a video on Thai boxing some years ago, I never thought it would be possible for a woman to box seriously," she says.

An increasing number of women are taking up Thai boxing for fitness or self-defence, but many are spurred on by the challenge of competing in title fights. Thai master Thosaphon Sitwatjana, or Master Toddy, launched the sport in Britain a few years ago, and now estimates that 40 per cent of students training at his Manchester gym are women. "British girls are now walking away with all the big titles," he says. "I find that, compared to men, the women are more dedicated, they train harder, don't give up so easily and become better boxers."

Mr Sitwatjana arranges regular shows in Manchester, which are relayed live to Thailand, and show promoters are assured double the ticket sales if women feature on the bill. British champions such as Ms Lee have become star personalities in Japan and Thailand. In the Far East, America, France, The Netherlands and West Germany, Thai boxing is televised weekly, attracts healthy sponsorship and pulls in big crowds. But, even with so many English girls competing — and winning — with the exception of one transmission on Sky, no fights have yet been shown on British television.

Ann Holmes, aged 30, the world titleholder, believes this is due partly to resistance to women's sports, and partly to ignorance about this particular sport. "It's assumed the fights will be very violent, like ordinary boxing with blood and terrible injuries. There's no appreciation of the techniques involved."

What distinguishes the sport is the use of elbows, knees and feet, and the predominance of rapid high kicks. However, because learning to defend against blows is a fundamental skill, injuries, says Mr Sitwatjana, who has trained six current titleholders, tend to be rare. "I've never seen a girl's nose broken or someone being knocked out cold, in spite of the fact that they hit with unbelievable speed and strength."

But experts such as Adrian Whiteman, medical adviser to the British Boxing Board of Control, remain unconvinced about the sport's safety. "Women's bodies aren't built to withstand this type of contact sport," Dr Whiteman says. "There's the risk of future long-term damage from blows to the breasts, or internal bleeding and bruising of the ovaries and other organs. These are things which should be seriously considered before taking up any very violent physical activity."

Alix Kirsta

Finding a place in the Sunlight

Can a model village built for one company's workers keep its character as new owner-occupiers move in?

NO WORKING man of an independent turn of mind could breathe the atmosphere of the place for long, a trade union leader declared in the early years of the century. In those days, the main drawback of a half-timbered nook among the shady lawns of Port Sunlight, on Merseyside, was the paternalism of a landlord who was once employer, all-forgiving benefactor and a peer of the realm.

For those factory workers who can still aspire to a home on the estate, a more material consideration today is likely to be the mortgage: the half-timbered nooks have trebled in value on the open market in the past three years.

Last week the company that manages Port Sunlight launched a bid to seek buyers among business executives and professional people moving into the region. It is one more step in the transformation of one of the most remarkable social experiments of a century ago into a shrine re-dedicated to the mobile owner-occupier.

Unilever, the industrial empire built on a foundation of Sunlight Soap by William Lever, later Lord Leverhulme, began selling houses on the estate to occupying tenants 10 years ago, and more recently began to offer homes on the open market as they fell vacant. Prices now range between £50,000 and £90,000. This year is likely to see owner-occupiers begin to outnumber, for the first time, the remaining tenants.

When it was laid out in 1880, Port Sunlight marked a historic advance in the planning of working-class housing. Lord Leverhulme's ideal was to foster a healthier, more loyal workforce by taking employees out of the slums of Liverpool and housing them as a community in beautiful surroundings. Other industrialists had built housing for their workers, but he was the first to aim at something beyond a utilitarian model. Trade unionists attacked the project as an attempt to sweeten but perpetuate capitalist despotism. But its exam-

ple was a strong influence, not only on the garden city movement in this country, but also on town planners abroad.

The change has aroused fears among some conservationists that the character of the estate — strikingly harmonious, even though many architects were responsible for different parts of it — may be eroded. "It is alarming, because of the danger that new owners will make piecemeal changes," says Trevor Mitchell, acting secretary of the Victorian Society. "Private ownership means improvement, and we do not like improvement." Glazed porches, picture windows, concrete roof-tiles and garages are the kind of desecration the Victorian Society fears.

The estate is a conservation area, and every house is a Grade II listed building. This means that big alterations like porches can in theory be banned by the local planning authority.

"The whole ethos of the place has changed over recent years, but there have been no problems over alterations," says Malcolm Moore, of the village's Heritage Centre, provided by Unilever. "The people who have come here know that the village is a protected environment, and that is exactly what has attracted them."

One feature of the estate has always been its elaborate public gardens and wide green boulevards. It won awards in the Britain in Bloom competitions in 1988 and 1989. A Unilever company maintains the gardens and has promised to continue to do so in perpetuity.

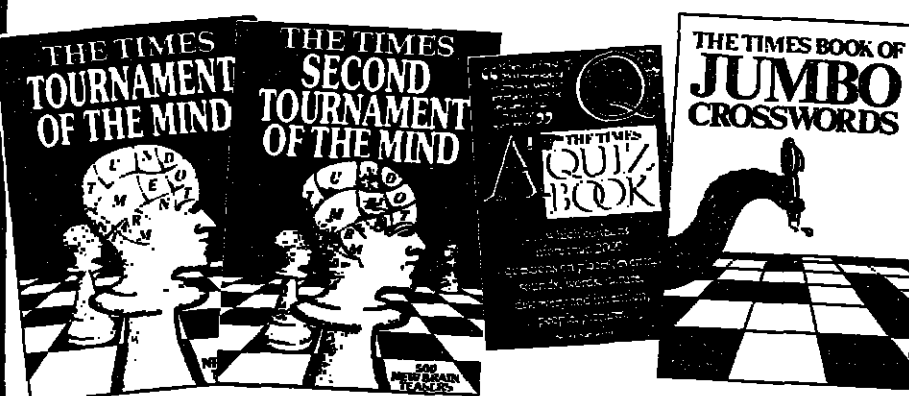
Port Sunlight may be on the point of entering another period of influence on town planning in this country. Some of its features (although not its character as a company estate associated with a large factory) call to mind the ideals of architectural traditionalism and human scale that the Prince of Wales has sought to promote, especially in his projected village near Dorchester, in Dorset.

George Hill



Living in the past: terrace houses in Port Sunlight

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Boots and bonnets are in style

Learning how to deal with minor breakdowns is a vital element of road safety — even if you're not driving

Agony aunts once recommended car maintenance classes to lonely hearts looking for romance. Now, it seems, women are queuing up for the chance to don overalls and grab a spanner — not so much to increase their chances of picking up Mr Right, as to reduce the risk of meeting Mr Wrong.

Shell, the oil products company, has launched a free nationwide car maintenance course for women and already, says Tim Green, the company's retail market manager, 3,000 women have applied. The Gemini Women's Workshops teach basic car maintenance: changing a wheel, checking oil and water levels and dealing with a broken fanbelt, for example. The theory is that knowing how to cope with such minor mechanical failures will make women less vulnerable if their car breaks down. Women attending the two-hour evening classes also get a booklet on maintenance and safety checks, compiled in conjunction with the AA and the police.

Mr Green is pleased with the success of the workshops, and not surprised by the demand. "Women now comprise 47 per cent of motorists and the dangers of being stranded alone with their cars, so it is no wonder they are keen to know how to deal with minor breakdowns," he says.

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Grace Rhoomes teaches car mechanics at the Women's Motor Mechanics Workshop in Brixton, London. Although the training courses there are aimed at women who want to become car mechanics, Ms Rhoomes confirms that a growing number of women drivers want to learn basic car maintenance. The workshop deals with these enquiries by keeping a list of women-only classes run in London. Ms Rhoomes began her career by going to one of these herself.

She says: "I started because I didn't want to feel a fool if my car broke down as a result of something simple. Then I learnt how satisfying it was to be able to do things like change the spark-plugs, something garages charge quite a lot for but which isn't mysterious and takes only a few minutes."

But how useful would basic courses, such as the Shell workshops, be for most women? Rebecca Hadley of the AA is slightly sceptical about the way the theory would work out in practice. The AA compiles a list of the top 10 breakdown causes, and topping this list at 15 per cent of all calls, are problems with batteries. As she points out: "The majority are flat because someone has left the lights on, which is more a matter of common sense than car maintenance. It is useful to know how to start a car using jump leads, but of course you need another car for that."

"Nearly half the call-outs are for electrical problems of one kind or another. These days our patrols tend to carry electronic diagnostic kits, but even so, because the systems

in cars are more intricate than they used to be, the solution is often to replace a component rather than carry out a repair. As a result the car may have to be towed to a garage."

Ms Hadley also points out that the AA does not advise members to change tyres on the hard shoulders of motorways. "It's true that if you know what you are doing you could be away in five minutes,

but there is always the risk of your car being knocked off the jack by the 'bow wave' of a passing vehicle."

In my experience, attempting to change a tyre also involves the humiliation of discovering that the wheel nuts have been put on so tightly they would require Superwoman to turn them. Mr Green says: "You can always ask the garage not to

tighten the nuts so much, or you can buy a special gadget you jump up and down on to give you enough leverage."

Part of the Gemini workshops course is devoted to routine maintenance checks, but surely any car handbook tells you how to check tyres, battery, oil, water and the rest?

Mr Green says: "Women never read instructions. They prefer to be shown what to do, and during the course of a workshop we can tackle all these problems."

Lee Rodwell



THE ENGINEERING ASSEMBLY

The 1990 elections to the Engineering Assembly have been conducted by the Electoral Reform Society on behalf of The Engineering Council. The electorate comprises those registered with The Engineering Council as Chartered Engineers (CEng), Incorporated Engineers (IEng) and Engineering Technicians (EngTech), and with registered addresses in the Regions concerned.

The declaration of results is as follows:

ASHTON E W S	CEng	FOY M R	IEng	SIMMONS N C	CEng
BICKLEY J G S	CEng	GUY B	CEng	STANLEY K	IEng
BIRCHENHUGH A	CEng	HARTLE R L D	CEng	STEEPLE T W	CEng
BISHOPP G W	IEng	JONES N B	CEng	SUTTON K	IEng
BROGDEN J G	IEng	KAY C T	CEng	TIMMS M A	CEng
BURNHAM C M	CEng	KIRKER T J	CEng	TOLCHER W J F	CEng
CAVE B J	CEng	MUIR N	CEng	VERNON C T	CEng
DODDRIDGE P E	IEng	NAULY R S	CEng	WAKELIN M J	CEng
ELWALD R G	CEng	PAZZARD B C E	CEng	WILLIAMSON M	CEng
FALCUS M	CEng	PIKE K C	CEng	WRIGHT H D	CEng
FISHER R J	CEng				

For information, the 1990 Engineering Assembly takes place on July 16th-17th at the University of Surrey, Guildford

Signed L.W.L. Chelton, Secretary

Helping to save creatures, great and small

Ruth Gledhill charts the history of London Zoo and its work for animal conservation

London Zoo, one of the world's greatest, urgently needs funds to maintain its place as a leading centre of conservation, scientific research and animal husbandry. Its scientists, keepers and officers are committed to maintaining the diversity of animal life for future generations in an age when the wild land on which these animals can roam freely is rapidly shrinking.

Most people today want to see animals but few can afford to travel to an African park or other wildlife areas. The zoo therefore considers it has an important role in showing people living animals.

As part of its work, the zoo (motto: Every Living Thing is Our Concern) is beginning an exciting programme of refurbishment to take it into the next century.

Its role in conservation is equally important. Its scientists estimate that one animal or plant species becomes extinct every 10 minutes, one for every 1,500 human babies born.

The St Helena giant earwig and the Lord Howe Island stick insect are two among the thousands of species that no longer walk the earth, wiped out by habitat destruction and introduced pests.

By contrast, in one conservation project, the giant panda Chia Chia was sent on breeding loan to the Chapultepec Zoo in Mexico City, and successful breeding programmes have helped to return the Arabian oryx, the scimitar-horned oryx and Pere David's deer to the wild. If this breeding and conservation work is to continue and be extended, more cash is essential.

The Development Trust of the Zoological Society of London, which like its parent body is a registered charity, was set up in 1985 to help raise the money. Sir Gordon White, of Hanson Industries, is the trust's chairman, and Baroness Park of Monmouth became director last year on her retirement as principal of Somerville College, Oxford.

After a review, the Government gave the zoo a £10 million one-off grant in 1988 but today the only income from public funds is a £1.3 million annual grant to finance the Institute of Zoology, the society's scientific subsidiary.

The zoo needs funds to improve the environment in which the animals live. Priorities are a £7 million refurbishment of the aquarium, a £3.58 million insect and invertebrate house in the old

The Zoological Society of London was founded in 1826 on the initiative of Sir Stamford Raffles and Sir Humphry Davy, who was president of the Royal Society. Raffles had been inspired by the Jardin des Plantes in Paris and envisaged a similar project in the heart of London.

Like other scientific societies founded in London in the 19th century, it was originally intended to be primarily for scientists. Its early aims were the study of zoology and the introduction of exotic animals to Britain. The society was immediately leased part of Regent's Park for the collection.

The first animals were a white-headed eagle, a female deer, and Dr Brookes - a griffon vulture named after Dr Joshua Brookes, who donated it. The vulture survived for 40 years. The collection grew quickly and thousands of people were fascinated by the wildlife on display. The gardens were opened to the public two years later.

George IV granted the society its first charter in 1829, the year before he died, and his successor, William IV, gave the royal collections of animals at Windsor and at the Tower of London to the society.

The menagerie now included a Bengal lion, with lioness and cubs, a Cape lion, a Barbary lioness from the Atlas mountains, a tiger, a leopard, a jaguar, a puma, an African bloodhound and some secretary birds. Any duplicates were sent to Dublin.

Reg Fish, the chief librarian, says: "Now we are more concerned with conservation and keeping animals in groups. They did not seem to think about these things in those days."

The world's first public aquarium



Early exhibit: Russian bear

ium was opened in 1853, the first reptile house in 1849 and the first insect house in 1881. A few years later, the word "zoo" was coined by the Great Vance, a music hall singer, with his hit number, "Walking in the Zoo".

In 1854, an article in *The Illustrated News* noted that one of the zoo's most recent acquisitions was a bear captured by sailors on HMS Samson while in the Black Sea area. In 1872 the last quagga, a kind of African horse, in captivity died. The species is now extinct.

Other early celebrities included Jumbo, the first African elephant seen alive in England, received from Paris in exchange for a rhino in 1865. Jumbo was sold to the American Barnum Circus in 1882 amid a huge public outcry and endeared himself to his public by refusing to leave the zoo without his keeper. He later met a tragic end when he charged a train in Canada.

Winnie, a black bear from Winnipeg, was deposited at the zoo in 1914 by the American forces on Salisbury Plain and achieved immortality as Winnie the Pooh in A.A. Milne's works. Milne regularly took his son Christopher to see the tame bear the zoo has ever owned.

companies Esso, Shell and BP have given more than £300,000 altogether and the Barclay brothers £500,000.

In addition, the Clore Foundation has donated £1 million for work done on the Clore Pavilion, which was given to the zoo by Sir Charles Clore.

Lady Park, a former diplomat, raised £3 million for Somerville, the Prime Minister's former college, over five years and developed

a wide range of contacts in industry and the City. She says: "I have found the same dedication to animals here as I found to the young and to scholarship at Oxford. It is the commitment and enthusiasm of the people that impress me very much."

Successful schemes at the zoo include Adopt an Animal, which offers visitors a jellyfish for £15 a year, or a giraffe for £1,500. Bats, bongos, leopards and leopards are all up for adoption. More than £170,000 has been raised from 6,000 adopters. Lifewatch, a new scheme to incorporate Friends of the Zoo, which includes free admission with membership, has attracted nearly 4,000 members in six months.

Lord Peyton of Yeovil, treasurer of the society and chairman of Zoo Operations, a subsidiary company set up by the society to manage London Zoo and Whipsnade, says: "It is really important that the young should be given an opportunity to see the marvellous things of nature that are in danger of being trampled out of existence by an unheeding human race, that they should come here and pause to wonder."

Professor Avron Mitchell, the society's president, says: "The diversity of animals is very important to man for a multitude of reasons, cultural, aesthetic, economic and scientific. The zoo is a centre of scientific excellence. It deserves the support of the scientific community and the nation."

Alexandra Dixon, the conservation officer, says: "We make a lot of good conservation work happen, whether or not we pay for it ourselves. We have the experience, the expertise and the connections." Miss Dixon and David Jones, director of the zoos, played an important role in setting up a project to help in the campaign against ivory poaching.

Mr Jones says: "The zoo is also important in an urban environment. Children see wildlife programmes on television, but they can get excited by animals in the living world in a way they do not by seeing wildlife films."

Peter Denton, director of administration, says the zoo is still running at a loss but gate receipts in this financial year have increased. "It is a challenge," he says. "There is no guarantee we are going to make it. But with goodwill, good support and a bit of luck we will."



Jumbo attraction: 125 years after the first elephant appeared at the zoo, they are still a big favourite

EVERY LIVING THING IS OUR CONCERN

The Zoo is a tremendous national asset and resource.

It is a prominent part of London's history, one of the world's foremost biological institutions and is today in the forefront of conservation worldwide.

Its chief concerns are:

Conservation: It works through its research and animal management programmes to preserve endangered species.

Education: It introduces children to the world of living animals so that they can learn more about them and become actively involved in their future. When they visit London Zoo, children can see the movement of Kenyan elephants displayed by the new satellite tracking project. They can also learn about work to save the Black Rhino, the Partula Snail and, at Whipsnade, Pere David's deer, Przewalski's Horse and the Scimitar-horned Oryx.

Research: The Institute of Zoology works on a wide range of projects to produce a unique database on animal nutrition, reproduction genetics and veterinary care relevant to long term management of wild species.

Rehabilitation: Working with other countries and institutions, the Zoo is helping to re-establish and manage some species which have become extinct in the wild.

All this is going on at London Zoo and Whipsnade Wild Animal Park but the Zoo itself needs long term support to maintain all this work.

The only regular support we receive from Government is the £1.3 million annual grant which helps fund the work of The Institute of Zoology.

Money is urgently needed to support new and important projects, and to provide a better environment for the animals using up-to-date technology. Our visitors, especially children, can then share a wonderful experience.

The Zoo needs money now for a new home for the Panda, for the Aquarium and the new Invertebrate House. It also needs money for conservation, animal breeding, and its valuable research work.

This is your Zoo. Please support it. To help, contact Lady Park of Monmouth.

The Zoological Society of London Development Trust, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY, tel 071 722 1802.



THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

Sir Robert McALPINE

The Zoo thanks its contractors, Sir Robert McAlpine, for providing this space.

The Queen's visit a royal occasion

On May 9th Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh will visit London Zoo in Regents Park to initiate the programme run from the Zoo's Elephant House to monitor the movement of wild elephants in central Kenya.

This novel system uses communications satellites to relay the position of individual elephants, carrying special transmitters, to the French Space Agency in Toulouse from where the information is passed to London and our workers in the field.

This project illustrates the way in which the Zoological Society of London combines the best in scientific knowledge with our worldwide network of contacts and our expertise in animal biology.

Lifewatch an opportunity for action

Lifewatch, the Society's new membership scheme has been established to support such conservation work and to provide an opportunity for all our friends and visitors to join us in this endeavour.

For more details about Lifewatch and the work of the Zoological Society of London contact Amanda Saunders at London Zoo, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY, telephone 071 722 3333, or Melanie Goss at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, near Dunstable, LU6 2LF Bedfordshire, telephone 0582 872171.





LONDON ZOO/2

FOCUS

Rounding up the finance

The London Zoo is to undergo refurbishment to regain popularity, Malcolm Brown writes

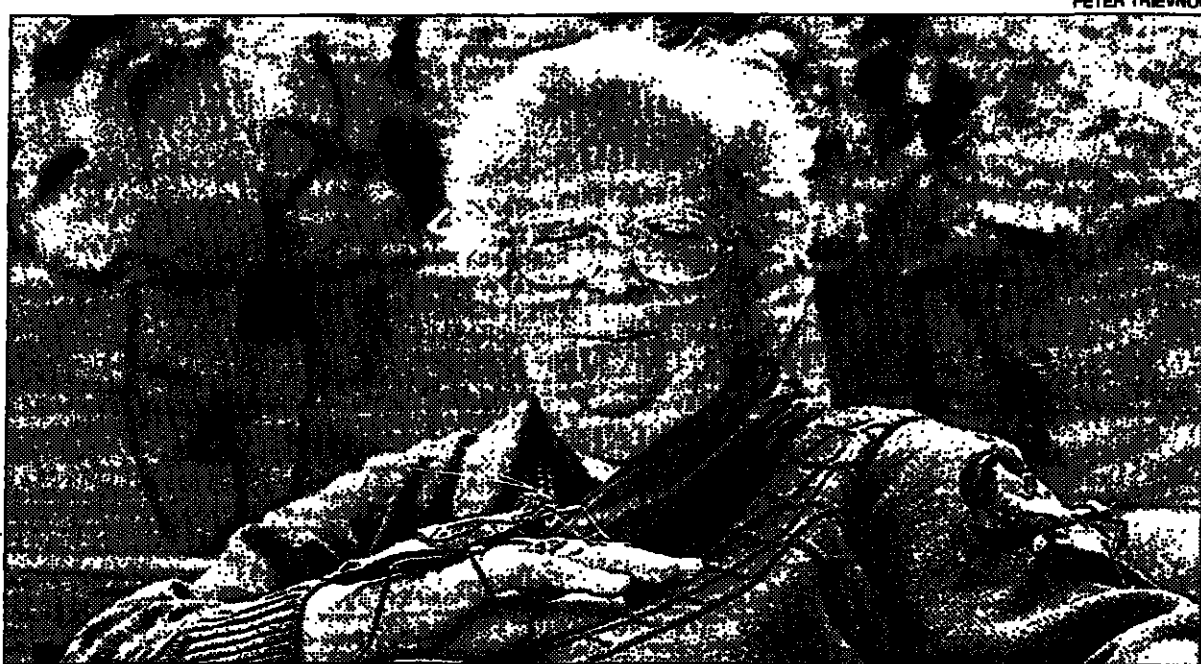
The zoo needs to raise more than £20 million for developments that are essential if it is to compete as a London attraction. Baroness Park of Monmouth, former principal of Somerville College, Oxford, who is director of the zoo's fund-raising Development Trust, hopes to find at least a quarter of that during her two-year stint in the job.

The zoo, she says, has two functions: scientific research and entertainment. However, for a number of reasons, including its inaccessibility, it has lost popularity with the public, which has shown in gate figures.

To make the Regent's Park zoo and its sister organization, Whipsnade, more attractive they need to be refurbished and brought up to date, which would involve enormous capital expenditure.

Lady Park says there are three main projects at Regent's Park and one at Whipsnade:

● The Mappin Terraces. Once regarded as the focal point of the zoo, the terraces, which used to house the polar bears, were closed down in the mid-1980s and are now an eyesore. The zoo would like to transform them into a home for the pandas, with the look and feel of a piece of north China.



Research and entertainment: Baroness Park of Monmouth will raise funds to improve both of these functions

The estimated cost is more than £8 million.

● The aquarium. The zoo wants to re-equip the aquarium with state-of-the-art technology. The project would cost about £7 million. One of the problems is that the aquarium is below, and an integral part of, the Mappin Terraces, so the terrace and aquarium projects are to be interdependent.

● The invertebrate house. The insect collection is a big draw. The zoo, at a

cost of £3.6 million, wants to renovate one of the Victorian buildings (either the parrot house or the ostrich house). "It is an all-year-round exhibit that people will come to whatever the weather if we make it exciting enough," Lady Park says.

The £3 million Whipsnade project — a conservation and breeding centre — will be carried out in three parts. The first will consist of laboratories to study disease in wild animals. "A lot

has been done on disease in domestic animals," Lady Park says, "but little is known about disease in wild animals. For instance, there was an epidemic among seals about two years ago and nobody knew what it was."

The second element will be breeding pens for endangered species. The third element is accommodation that will allow Whipsnade to conduct residential courses for veterinary surgeons from other countries.

PETER TRIVNOR

Campaign to put Whipsnade top of the list for tourists Survival in the park

Whipsnade Wild Animal Park in Bedfordshire is one of the Zoological Society's most valuable assets, in terms of conservation, animal welfare and potential. The 600-acre park contains more than 2,500 animals on land owned outright by the society (*Ruth Gledhill writes*).

Yet recent market research showed that Whipsnade was not even on the day tripper's list of places to visit. When the society bought Whipsnade in 1927, circus elephants were used to clear the ground. The park was decades ahead of its time, purchased out of a belief that animals would not do well in a confined environment. It was the world's first open-plan park and has been used as a model for many other zoos.

Today a herd of Windsor white goats can be seen grazing close to historic Hampshire sheep, pit ponies and Chinese water deer. The successful breeding record is testimony to the contentment of Whipsnade's animals.

Although 20 times the size of London Zoo, the park attracts less than a third of the visitors — 392,000 last year. Andrew Forbes, Whipsnade's chief executive, says his aim is to transform the park into more than a "country cousin" of the zoo.

The park was running at a loss when he took over in July 1988. It is labour-intensive, and, unlike other zoo parks, has avoided becoming a theme park. Instead, investment at Whipsnade has focused on breeding and conservation programmes.

Mr Forbes intends to strengthen this conservation emphasis. He is determined not just to put the park back on the visitor's itinerary but to take it to the top of the list.

He brought in Roy Thomas, former marketing manager at Windsor Safari Park, as part of a new management team to raise Whipsnade's public profile. Mr Thomas had increased the number of visitors at Windsor from 400,000 to 1.1 million in five years.

Richard Kock, a veterinary surgeon, was promoted to animal manager, and Chris Webster, a former army captain, was taken on as operations manager. The park now has one of the best birds-of-prey demonstrations in Britain, a new children's farmyard will open later this year, and five acres of unused woodland have been converted into a woodland walk with hides to watch wild British birds.

Mr Forbes says: "Conservation is not just about elephants in Africa or pandas in China. It concerns all the animals in the world. Large numbers of the world's animals will be extinct by the year 2000."



The conservation initiative: Whipsnade breeds rare and endangered species and returns the young to the wild



On the ball at Whipsnade

The park has opened an appeal to save one species at least from such a fate — the great bustard, valued as a delicacy but difficult to breed in captivity. It will be gone in 10 years if its present rate of decline continues.

A small group of great

bustards was moved to the park in 1988. Whipsnade hopes to find a sponsor to give £30,000 over three years.

Mr Forbes is also planning a tiger area, to open next year, and a hilly area — through which visitors can drive — with animals wandering wild around waterfalls and streams.

Whipsnade has had many successful captive-breeding programmes. It has bred and reintroduced a herd of Père David's deer to China, where it had not lived in the wild for 2,000 years, and has bred and returned wild yak to an Afghan tribe driven into Turkey, to provide a link with the tribe's nomadic past.

The park is one of the few places in the world to breed wattled cranes and has become involved in a project to save the kouprey, an endangered bovine from Vietnam.

For every animal taken from the wild, more than 50 have been born at Whipsnade. The park has bred nearly nine out of every 10 animals it keeps. The society also intends to increase its commitment to breeding endangered species through the proposed £3 million initiative.

The Institute of Zoology is at the forefront of research into genetics, reproduction and disease

No animal could survive in captivity today and many will not survive in the wild in the future without the science and technology to protect them from disease, ensure successful breeding and maintain genetic diversity (*Ruth Gledhill writes*).

The Institute of Zoology, at the Zoological Society of London, is at the forefront of world research into reproduction, genetics and disease. Four research groups focus on veterinary science, comparative physiology, comparative medicine and conservation biology.

Professor Anthony Flint, director of science, says: "Zoos are basically about the ecology of small populations of animals and we do a lot of work on how to maintain these small groups."

"In 100 years, man will be controlling the breeding of all animals on this planet, simply because of the pressure

Noah's Ark rescue

on habitats. We will have to manage all wild populations of animals. To do this, we are going to need a lot of information on various aspects of their ecology."

This is all part of conservation biology, which has been termed "the science for the 21st century".

In collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission, the institute has proposed new definitions for Red Data Book categories such as "endangered" and "rare".

Recent studies supported by the National Federation of Zoological Gardens focused on co-ordinated breeding programmes in zoos, particularly for threatened species such as

the Hyacinthine macaw and the Moluccan cockatoo, and the genetic and demographic risks to small zoo populations of species such as Grevy's zebra, the cheetah, the cotton-topped tamarin and the spectacled bear.

For its studies, the institute breeds five species: red deer, Père David's deer, marmoset monkeys, naked mole rats and opossums. Many of these studies have applications to man.

The institute has also developed methods for making up small breeding groups of animals using techniques such as DNA fingerprinting to obtain the best possible genetic mix. This is of particular importance when zoos are increasingly reluctant to take animals from the wild and prefer to breed from captive stock. The in-

stitute's scientists can now genetically characterize an individual from a single hair root.

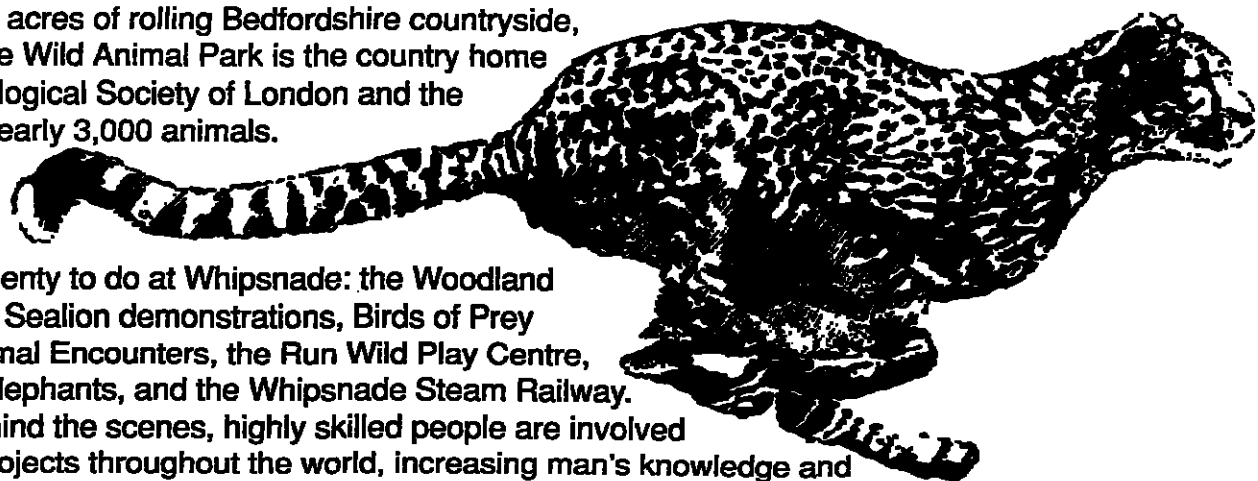
Professor Flint says: "It needs careful handling to work out how to maximize genetic diversity. If we are going to manage all the wildlife on this planet, one of the important areas in which we are going to have to produce information is in how to treat them when they become sick, how to catch them and how to sedate them to move them from one place to another."

"Clearly, we cannot test medicines on all the thousands of species of birds, fish and mammals they need to be used on, so our job is to work out what the rules are."

Many of the sedation and nutrition techniques developed by the institute are used in wildlife parks around the world. Professor Flint says: "A large part of the work we do is of importance to medicine and agriculture as well as conservation."

HAVE A WILD TIME AT Whipsnade WILD ANIMAL PARK

Set in 600 acres of rolling Bedfordshire countryside, Whipsnade Wild Animal Park is the country home of the Zoological Society of London and the home to nearly 3,000 animals.



There is plenty to do at Whipsnade: the Woodland Bird Walk, Sealion demonstrations, Birds of Prey flying, Animal Encounters, the Run Wild Play Centre, Working Elephants, and the Whipsnade Steam Railway.

Behind the scenes, highly skilled people are involved in study projects throughout the world, increasing man's knowledge and understanding of animals, protecting endangered species and helping to ease the pressures that the human race imposes on the natural world.

Have a good day at Whipsnade and help the Zoological Society at the same time. Signposted from junction 9 and 12 off the M1.

For more information about the Zoological Society of London (owners of Whipsnade Wild Animal Park) and how you can help in its work, contact Lady Park of Monmouth, The Zoological Society of London Development Trust, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY, telephone 071 722 1802.

Whipsnade's 'wild' diary

EXPERIENCE AFRICA, weekends and bank holidays in May
The music, culture, food and crafts of Africa...and much more.

STEAM-UP 16/17 June

Traction engine, model railway exhibition, Whipsnade steam railway - all train rides half-price

CONSERVATION WEEKEND, 28/29 July

Exhibitions, demonstrations of alternative technology

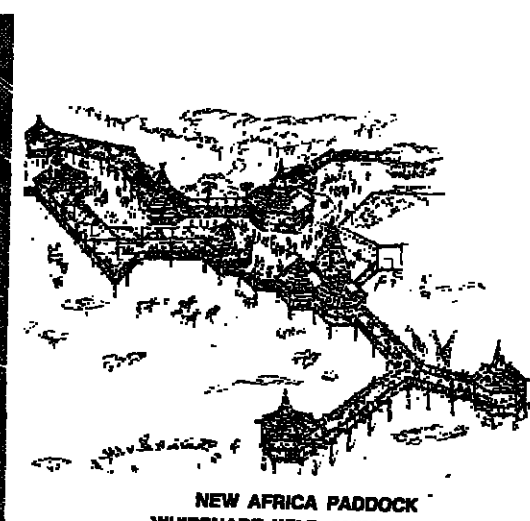
TEDDY BEARS PARTY, 26/27 August

Bring Teddy along for the competitions and Wild Animal Park bank holiday party

INTERNATIONAL ZOO DESIGNERS



CENTRAL LAGOON DOHA ZOO



NEW AFRICA Paddock
WHIPSNADE WILD ANIMAL PARK

THE JOHN S. BONNINGTON PARTNERSHIP, an architectural practice with an international reputation, has been associated with the Zoological Society of London since the early 70's working together on the design, construction, stocking and management of a number of zoos and wildlife parks in various parts of the world.

The association began when John S. Bonnington Partnership was appointed by the Municipality of Doha, the capital city of the Arabian Gulf State of Qatar, to design a new educational and recreational zoo. The architects appointed the Zoological Society of London as their consultants to advise them on the animal collection management, veterinary requirements and exhibit design.

The challenge was to create out of a hot dry desert, a cool shaded oasis for the enjoyment of nature. This project developed the creation of naturalistic environmental settings for animal exhibits, with the minimum of visual barriers between the visitors and the animals. The success of the Doha project resulted in subsequent appointments as Consultants for other Wild Life exhibits in the Middle East.

Commissions for the design of Kuwait Zoo and Marine Aquarium followed. Feasibility studies were prepared for the remodelling of the Al Ain Zoo in the United Arab Emirates, and the team are currently working on the masterplan for the Dubai Zoo. Enquiries for assistance on Zoo design have also been received from Hong Kong and Pakistan.

The Doha Zoo was completed, stocked and managed by the association for a five year period, during which the local staff were recruited and trained to take over the day-to-day management of the Zoo.

John S. Bonnington Partnership's Head Office is located at Tyttenhanger House, a Grade 1 Listed Country House near St Albans, Hertfordshire. The architects are currently working on designs to remodel both London Zoo and Whipsnade Wild Animal Park. Construction on the new Bird Rearing Unit and Africa Aviary are under way at Regents Park. The Elephant Display Area and Birds of Prey Amphitheatre are nearing completion at Whipsnade, where a new Childrens Farm and Adventure Play area are also under construction.

The Architects design team, which now includes Set Designers, Artists, and Landscapers from the film industry, are working on the creation of artificial environments, featuring mixed species exhibits in naturalistic settings where the visitor can actually enter the environment inhabited by the animals.

In association with American Architects, Cambridge Seven, similar concepts have been developed for the remodelling of the listed Mappin Terraces at Regents Park. Planning consent has recently been granted for this project.

The John S. Bonnington Partnership believe that the development of naturalistic habitat exhibits provides a more stimulating environment for Zoo animals and Zoo visitors alike. Modern techniques and exhibit design, utilising Wild Life Films, close-up photography and computer graphic displays, coupled with natural habitat design, can make a visit to the Zoo or Wild Life Park an exciting experience for families who otherwise would not have the opportunity for personal contact with wild animals.

Experts in sickness and in health

People have rather romantic notions of what life in a zoo hospital is like. They expect to see lions with sore paws and suchlike. The reality is more prosaic. There are sick animals, but an awful lot of time is spent by veterinary surgeons pumping data into and out of computers to build databases in an attempt to understand the animals in their care — what are they like (medically and physiologically speaking) in sickness and in health?

That question is a lot more difficult to answer than it sounds, simply because of the sheer number of animal species in the world and the fact that every one is, to a greater or lesser extent, distinct from the others. There are 20,000 species of animals of which about 600 are represented in the zoo.

Humans are comparatively easy to deal with, says Dr James Kirkwood, the senior veterinary officer. "You can go out and bleed 20 normal human beings and from that say, 'From these 20 human beings we know that the normal blood cell concentration seems to be between X and Y'. If anything falls outside that then we should be concerned."

"Our problem is that we're dealing with the medicine of 20,000 species of terrestrial vertebrates



Caring hands: veterinary nurses Christine Dean and Tony Fitzgerald take a blood sample from an owl before we start talking about fish and lots of other things. So we've got a gigantic problem of scale. We've got 20,000 and we know from the study of the domestic ones that although they are similar they

analysing that to develop principles," Dr Kirkwood says.

Just as complicated as knowing about the normal and abnormal physiological and biological states of wild animals is knowing how to treat them with medicines. Medicines do not have a uniform effectiveness across species. If a human being is ill the doctor can go to the British National Formulary to find out how much of a drug he should administer to a patient of a given size, weight and physical condition. You cannot do that with wild animals. With man it is relatively easy to tell whether you are giving a dose that is above the therapeutic threshold but below the toxic level.

While veterinary scientists are struggling with problems such as these, other researchers are trying to improve the general welfare of captive animals. The job of ethologist Dr David Shepherdson, an expert in the behaviour of animals in their natural habitat, is to try to enrich the lives of zoo animals.

"If you can provide an animal with an environment in captivity where it behaves the same way that it behaves in the wild then that's probably a reasonably adequate environment," he says.

Malcolm Brown



Locking horns: two black rhinos on Ol Ari Nyiro ranch

Keeping track of the black rhino

Animal conservation can involve researchers spending long periods in the wild. Rob Brett, of the Zoological Society of London, has spent the past three years tracking the rare black rhinoceros around the vast Ol Ari Nyiro ranch in Kenya (Malcolm Brown writes).

The 47 rhinos on the ranch are the only protected population of indigenous black rhino left in East Africa.

The ecology of wild animals — the study of them in their environments — can be vital to their conservation. Professor Anthony Flint, director of the Institute of Zoology, says: "If you want to manage a group of rhinos in a wildlife park in Africa, then you need to know things like how many individuals you can put in a given area, what their sex ratio should be, what should be the proportion of juveniles in the population, what kinds of vegetation you require in a given area."

Questions like that impinge on the management of animals in captivity."

If you were to introduce a male to a group of 50 rhinos, would you upset the sexual balance? To know that you need to know how big the

resident males' territories are and how many females are in a "harem".

Mr Brett has identified every one of the 47 rhinos, measured the size of their individual territories and studied how they interact and how frequently they move between different areas.

Professor Flint says: "What Brett did was to identify footprints. He could very rapidly identify the 47 animals by their footprints and that of course allowed him to tell where they had been, how far they were travelling in the day and which animals were associating."

One of Mr Brett's most innovative techniques was developed to find out about the sex lives of the male and female black rhino. "What he did was to use the fact that they spray their urine on the bushes," Professor Flint says.

"If you come up to a bush that a rhino has just urinated on you can collect urine from the leaves. The urine samples are frozen then sent over to the institute here for measurement of the male and female urinary steroid metabolites which you can use to identify when animals are pregnant and so forth."

The deep-frozen future

One of the most prized recent acquisitions of the Zoological Society of London is not an animal but a machine — a very expensive piece of equipment called a cryomicroscope, which allows scientists at the society's Institute of Zoology to watch animal semen being frozen and thawed for artificial insemination (Malcolm Brown writes).

London is part of an international scientific community of zoologists and researchers who exchange not only information but animal genes, so that rare animals may be saved from extinction or reintroduced into the wild from established captive stock.

Sperm bank helps save rare wildlife from extinction

Researchers talk of the zoo as a kind of "ark" of genetic material that can be dispatched world-wide. It may go either on the hoof — for example, institute scientists have been instrumental in reintroducing European-bred scimitar-horned oryx to Tunisia — or in test tubes, in the latter case as frozen semen, which is used to impregnate local females artificially.

The catch with artificial insemination, says Professor Anthony Flint, director of the

Institute of Zoology, is that every species of animal will have different requirements for the freezing rate or the thawing rate of its semen.

"The cryomicroscope allows you to freeze samples on the microscope so that you can watch them being cooled and thawed in a controlled way."

One area of international co-operation where this technique should prove invaluable is panda mating, traditionally one of the most difficult tasks in zoological match-making. Reintroducing endangered species to the wild by breeding them in the UK then transporting them to their natural habitat has proved very successful in recent years.



Safeguarding tomorrow's world: Professor Anthony Flint at work in the laboratory



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WHERE PEOPLE MATTER

EDUCATION

Exploding the low grades myth

Parents will soon be making choices about schools for September. David Woodhead argues that it is not always the independent school with the highest examination results that offers the best all-round education

School A takes only the academic cream: rigorous selection procedures ensure that it recruits pupils whose ability matches the highest expectations. The school whips the cream into shape, and, with apparent ease, secures giddy high pass marks and grades in public examinations.

School B takes silver rather than gold: there is some cream but it is mostly ordinary milk with some distinctly watery stuff lower down. The cream gets excellent exam results and much of the milk and water do better than they expect. But the overall pass and grade rates are pulled down by predictably weak performers.

Which is the better school? Parental wisdom will look at School A's results and say that, on exam performance, it is. But which has had to work harder? Which has produced more pupils whose results exceed expectations? Which has achieved great educational added value (EAV)? And which would have more difficulty in educating parents in the interpretation of exam results?

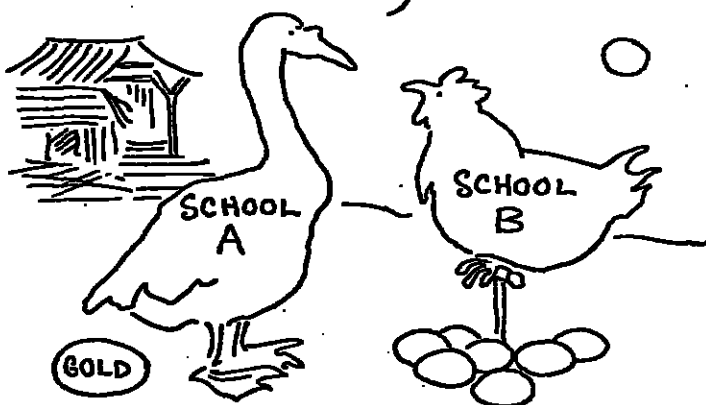
To suggest that School A may have done no more than enable its pupils to get the results at 11 or 13 indicated were well within their grasp is not to disparage its achievement. Any school which fulfils such talent is to be treasured. But spare a thought for School B in these days of intensely competitive independent education and parents hungry for exam data and, yes, league tables. It

comes as a surprise to many opponents of the independent sector to hear that it has hundreds of schools like School B. They are the unsung heroes (and heroines) of independent education. But their heads face a dilemma when prospective parents ask for their exam results. They have the same fear of academic league tables that gripped their maintained-sector colleagues 10 years ago, with the 1988 Education Act's requirement that state-sector schools publish exam results and a great many other details about themselves.

Those fears were largely unfounded. Horror stories of school league tables have been no more common since publication became a statutory obligation than they were when governors leaked exam results to the local paper to score political points. Even if they had, that would not have been sufficient reason to halt publication.

Parents must know how a school is performing in order to make an informed choice of school in the first place and to monitor its record thereafter. So for independent schools there is no real choice. They must make their exam results available to parents. The fear that they will publish and be damned — by parents too ignorant or lazy to look beyond raw statistics — could be mitigated by the kind of expert help that schools in the already lamented Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) obtained from its Research and Statistics Branch. Results can be presented in a form that relates them to the quality of the school's intake;

You've done rather well considering you never were a high flyer



parents can then see for themselves the school's EAV rating. Sometimes there is a 10-year time lag between such debates in the maintained and independent sectors. This is a measure of the extent to which the independent and state systems are complementary parts of a national education structure. Cross currents of educational debate and practice affect both sectors; legislation in the one inevitably has implications for the other.

Apart from the national curriculum, the legislation of the past decade which has most significance for independent schools can be summed up by one word: accountability, or "parent power". Independent schools are accustomed to the idea that they have the most direct accountability to parents — through the cheque book. That is fine as far as it goes but there are two snags. One is that in the state sector it goes much further — and it does so by statute. The other is that the option of

changing schools is more easily stated than practised because of the demand for places in day schools. It would be ironic if independent schools, with their much-vaunted direct relationship to parents, were to appear less accountable than state schools are statutorily required to be.

Independent schools cannot afford to be less sensitive to parent power; the penalty for insensitivity may be harsher than a change of attitude to accommodate the realities of parent power. Being part of the national education structure means that we cannot ignore the obligations placed on the state sector; independent schools should be no less concerned to fulfil them.

For some governors, the biggest challenge to their ways of conducting business is provided by parent governors. Opposition to them seems as ostrich-like as resisting publication of exam results. Some independent schools have parent governors already in the full rep-

resentative sense of the title. In some extreme cases, parents dominate the governing body because they saved the school from closure.

Far from bringing about the end of civilization as we know it, they have strengthened their schools. The fear that they would be incapable of seeing beyond the interests of their own children has proven as ill-founded as in those local education authorities — such as ILEA — which pioneered parent governors. On the contrary, my experience of a county primary school governing body indicated that the parent governors were the more far-sighted members.

Practice in the independent sector is varied. It is no threat to independence for schools to comply with the practices of the best among them — like the preparatory school which asks parents to write reports on the school when they receive the school's reports on their children.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy has recommended this for state-sector schools. Accountability is, of course, indivisible. It affects everyone and everything. Once conceded, it cannot be stopped. Nor should it be. It should be welcomed as a strengthener. Well-run independent schools have no reason to fear it; those which are not will be improved by it.

Nor should they neglect its political significance. Independent schools in the assisted-places scheme know they are accountable for their publicly funded places. Independent schools which are charitable trusts take seriously the proper fulfilment of the obligations which charitable status imposes. Demonstrating the fullest accountability to parents should be adhered to no less strictly.

David Woodhead

● The author is national director of the Independent Schools Information Service.

courses, or "modules", with a practical emphasis.

The idea is being taken further still in talks between AEB and the Business and Technician Education Council. There are plans to run a single vocational course in the first year of the sixth form which would provide the foundation for either an A level or a BTEC second-year course.

The goal of breaching the damaging divide between the academic and the vocational is one that ministers share. It is ironic, therefore, that the change should come in spite of rather than thanks to their reforming zeal.

NOTICEBOARD

Four-term year

THE CAMPAIGN for a four-term school year has won the support of the heads of the 30 polytechnics in England and Wales, who say it would help to boost the number of teenagers winning places in higher education.

The Committee of Directors of Polytechnics said a four-term year would overcome the need to stage public examinations such as GCSE and A level in May and June at the height of the day-leave season. April exams would also allow pupils to apply for places at polytechnics and universities on the basis of their actual grades rather than unreliable estimates by their teachers. A Polytechnics Central Admissions System survey found that only one in three grade predictions by schools turned out to be accurate.

The committee pointed out that although over-optimistic predictions might look good on paper they often led to disaster if a pupil failed to achieve the grades requested on the basis of the school estimate.

Appealing

STRATHCLYDE University has launched a £42 million appeal for new buildings to support its gallery and drama centre and to help fund new academic posts.

More than £3 million has already been raised. One of the first projects to receive cash will be a scheme to build a new visitors' centre celebrating the life of John Logie Baird, the father of television.

The UN boy

MATTHEW LAYTON, a 15-year-old pupil at the City of London School, flies to New York this week to address a session at the United Nations General Assembly as a representative of British youth. Instead of the international diplomats who usually pack the famous benches, his audience

will be teenagers from around the globe taking part in a UN celebration of Youth and the Environment. He has practised for his speech by addressing school assemblies.

Matthew was chosen to represent Britain because of his frequent voluntary work for the London branch of the United Nations Association, which he began in 1988 as part of his school's programme of community service.

Talking trade

NOTTINGHAM University, which sells itself as "The East Midlands Conference Centre", announced last week that it was now No 2 in the league of universities generating income from the conference trade.

Malcolm Youngson, the conference manager, who leads the university's entrepreneurial drive, says: "Reaching second place is quite an achievement but we won't be satisfied until we top the table. This year's figures are already well up on last year's."

Right Directions

SEMINARS on careers in public relations and journalism will be among the most popular attractions at Directions, Britain's biggest careers and higher education fair. Directions, which is sponsored by The Times and The Sunday Times, opens at Olympia on June 28. Careers in the media will be discussed by Lynn Beaumont, a public relations consultant, and David Hopkinson, deputy managing editor of The Times, in separate talks.

As well as being able to meet representatives of universities, polytechnics, colleges and blue-chip employers, visitors to the show will be able to attend seminars on their chosen career. Details are available from Kate Dawson on 081-940 5668.

Douglas Broom

EDUCATION ministers will this week find themselves in the curious position of being embarrassed by the success of their own reforms as the tide of change threatens to swamp the one aspect of the curriculum they have sought to leave unchanged (Douglas Broom writes).

For many, including the Prime Minister, A levels represent an unchanging beacon of excellence in an otherwise confused educational scene. Its defenders have beaten off reformers with warnings that standards must not be compromised. In 1988, the Higginson Committee called for

the replacement of the present three-subject system with five "leaner, fitter" exams. Rejecting the report, Kenneth Baker, the then Secretary of State for Education and Science, said depth must not be sacrificed to breadth.

Two years on, the ground is being cut from under ministerial feet by the exam boards and the schools. Figures from the Associated Examining Board, reported today, show that syllabuses which

incorporate the very changes the Government sought to prevent are growing in popularity.

The main factor is the need to match A level to GCSE. The two exams are as different as it is possible to imagine. GCSE with its emphasis on the practical is a poor bedfellow for the traditionalist academic A level.

Or rather it was. AEB has led the way in modernizing A level, introducing GCSE-style assess-

ment by coursework and abolishing the study of literature in modern languages and replacing it with an emphasis on communication skills.

The reforms are already moving further. In the West Country, the Wessex Project, set up jointly by the board and local schools, is piloting a modular A level in which students take a "core" course which is supplemented by a "pick and mix" selection of short

An embarrassing success

EDUCATIONAL

071-481 1066

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POSTS

WISCAD FARNHAM Deputy Head of Department

As part of the College's continuing growth and development since incorporation a new position of Deputy Head of Department has been created in the department of Fine Art & Audio Visual Studies. This is seen as a key appointment with a leading management role in one of the country's major art and design institutions.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified professionals who will already have demonstrated organisational ability in HE/FE, and whose track record reflects the kind of leadership that is required in a changing educational environment. Some experience in industry would be advantageous but it will be most important for candidates to have an academic profile which will support both their teaching and curriculum development duties.

Salary will be on the Principal Lecturer Scale (£20,292-£24,852).

Application will be by letter and CV to Lesley Davidson, Personnel Officer, (West Surrey College of Art & Design), Faulkner Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7DS. Tel 0252 722441 from whom more information should be obtained. (Closing date Wednesday, May 16).

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EDUCATION

Oxford woos the mature

A ceremony at Oxford this week will mark a change that promises to be as profound as any yet seen at the university, Douglas Broom reports

The inauguration of a new Oxford college is a rare event. But this Friday's ceremony will mark the onset of a veritable revolution at Britain's oldest university. Rewley House, home of Oxford's Department of External Studies, will be formally admitted to the status of a university "College of Entitlement", according to its dons the standing of Fellows and putting adult education firmly on the Oxford map.

By giving Rewley House the same standing as Oxford's 41 other colleges and halls, the university is taking its first ceremonial step towards the large-scale admission of mature external students.

Like other universities, Oxford is playing its part in the drive to expand the number of students in higher education. Plans to increase student numbers by 10 per cent by the end of the century have just been approved. But unlike any other university, Oxford intends to achieve its expansion by admitting mature students in large numbers. Such a course is radical enough in its own right but that it should come from the Britain's oldest and most conservative university is startling.

There will be more mature undergraduates joining three-year degree courses, and it will flirt with concepts such as part-time degrees and foundation courses.

The decision to opt for mature entrants rather than conventional sixth formers was prompted partly by the demographic downturn, which will see the teenager population fall by a third by 1995.

Trying to catch more fish in a smaller pool raises the spectre of lowering standards and undermining Oxford's *raison d'être*. However, there is more to a hint of altruism about the scheme, reflecting a desire to give more to the community while retaining Oxford's academic character.

More than three-quarters of colleges, in a recent university survey, said they expected to admit more mature students.

The change of heart in one of the most traditionalist academic institutions in the land follows the publication of a report by a committee under the chairmanship of Clark Brundin, vice-chancellor of Warwick University. Dr Brundin and his team spent a year examining ways of bringing Oxford into line with current thinking on university admissions.

Oxford has lagged behind the general trend in higher education over the last decade towards recruiting students from groups other than the conventional pool of bright sixth-formers. Mature students accounted for only 1.5 per cent of last October's intake and of 13,972 Oxford

undergraduates only 150 are over the age of 22. Although all colleges now accept applications from people with "non-standard qualifications", mature students face even tougher competition for places than their teenage counterparts.

A third who applied from school were accepted last year, but only a fifth of mature applicants won a degree course place.

But the Oxford reforms are not without their risks. Widening access to higher education means changes in other institutions. Most successful attempts have involved dismantling the continuous three-year course and re-assembling it as a series of "modules", self-contained study units that can be taken any time.

The Open University has built its success on the "credit" principle, allowing students to study at their own pace, building up credits for each completed module.

Oxford's tutorial system, with its intensive personal relationship between student and tutor, is as far away from the OU's modular curriculum as it is possible to get.

The idea of allowing any part-time degree study has provoked outrage, although there is agreement that at postgraduate level the more flexible system will work. An MSc in applied social studies, already approved for October 1991, will be Oxford's first part-time degree in its 800-year history.

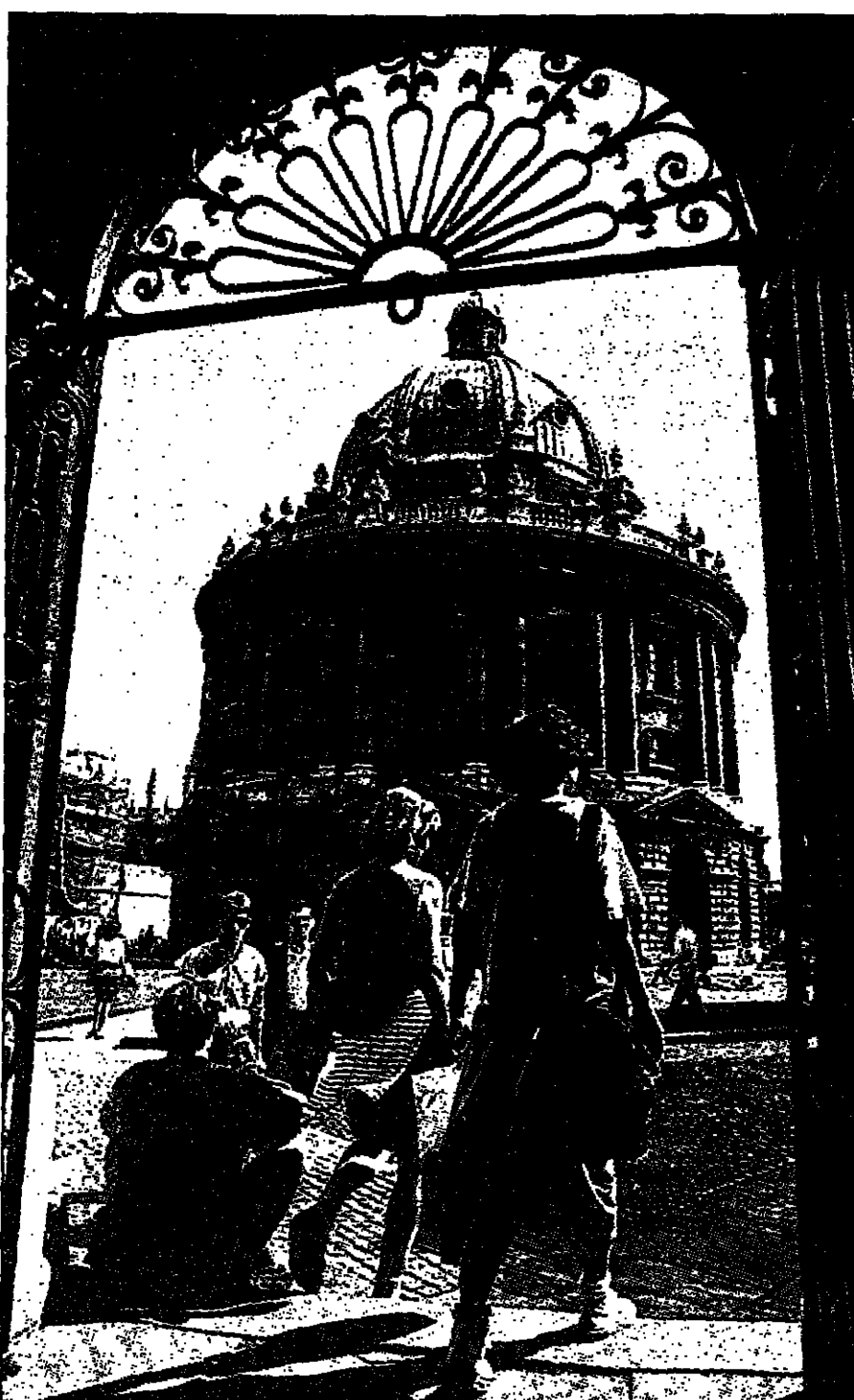
At first degree level, the debate is fiercer. Many dons say privately that they will have nothing to do with the mature-students project; they oppose part-time degrees bitterly, arguing that Oxford should stick to what it does best.

These views are not expressed on the record, but the Brundin committee heard enough of them to know that an all-out commitment to part-time study would not be acceptable. Instead, it proposed a compromise. Mature students could be allowed to follow a part-time course for the equivalent of the first year of a degree course. Thereafter, they would join a college full-time for the last two years.

The report said that a degree course that was studied part-time throughout would be seen as "second-class." It was important that mature students were subjected to the same rigour as their younger brethren.

Dr Richard Repp, master of St Cross College and a member of the Brundin committee, said: "We were trying to establish systems and methods which would allow much greater flexibility."

Trevor Rowley, acting deputy director of Rewley House, said Oxford had finally put "national concerns" on to its agenda. He added: "While the recommendations are not very radical, they open the way for an



Doorway to change: many more mature students will soon be studying at Oxford

experiment which may lead to radical changes by the end of the century."

The admission of Rewley House to the ranks of Oxford's "Societies" will give it the power to admit students to university degree courses in the same way as the other colleges and halls. The same distinction was conferred last year on Manchester College, which became Oxford's first college devoted exclusively to mature students.

Manchester's academic secretary, Judith Nisbet, said her students faced difficulties adjusting to college life. It meant leaving their home and job security for life in a college room on a student grant. But she was confident that the college would be swamped with applications.

As well as proposing new ways of joining degree courses, the Brundin report called for

a boost to be given to the traditional "liberal" studies that the university has offered for the last 100 years. In 1908, a committee was founded by dons from Oxford. Representatives from the Workers' Educational Association and its report, "Oxford and Working Class Education", launched the programme of non-degree studies which survives to this day.

As well as calling for the establishment of foundation courses for those without the relevant A levels, the Brundin report also urged an expansion of vocational courses.

Last week, Congregation, the university's parliament, approved a motion which effectively declared the Brundin report open for debate. It will now be up to the dons to decide how much of Dr Brundin's vision will become a reality.

The struggle for our heritage

Academics must leave their ivory towers and join the debate on history teaching, says Patrick Collinson

University historians may have thought they needed to pay little regard to the group appointed to draw up a national history curriculum. In an inaugural lecture I risked dismissive remarks about procrustean beds and revelled in history's limitless scope and variety. However, it dived the selective content question, which the group had to consider.

Most of us have kept quiet. But there are five reasons for breaking silence. First, I have now read the working group's final report, which was not generally available until three weeks after the "great debate" had already taken place, so far as the newspapers were concerned. The real debate begins now.

Second, the report was commented on initially by a not entirely representative group of academic historians, described as the acknowledged leaders of the profession, now constituted as the History Curriculum Association.

Third, some of that comment has been partial and unfair. Fourth, the report may have to be fought for if an acceptable version is to be implemented. Finally, I believe curriculum history on such lines is worth fighting for. It is not perfect, but it is the best foundation we are likely to get for reconstructing history in schools.

The skills-versus-content debate is sterile, founded on a false dichotomy. It is bad educational practice to test the ability to think historically without historical content. That is not what the curriculum team has prescribed. It insists that factual knowledge must be tested in context.

Unfair critics have forgotten that the subject of that statement is knowledge, and that historical knowledge should pervade all four curriculum targets. The critics deploy as smokescreen a nameless school, or syllabus, "where you have a passmark for hurt feelings", whereas children ought to be learning "the basic elements of the national past". National curriculum history should remove such abuses. We await the criticism that the curriculum lays too much emphasis on factual

content. But I believe we shall find that the report has got the skills-content issue right.

It has also correctly determined the proportions devoted to the British Isles, Europe and the wider world, while allowing space for local history in the additional, school-designed history units.

Within this curriculum children must study British history in all its main periods, as well as some ancient, European and extra-European history. Of nine units studied between the ages of 11 and 14, as many as five will be British or mostly British in content, with one unit each of ancient (Roman Empire), European, American and non-Western history. Again, we may expect a backlash.

The formula PESC spells out a measured mix in every one of the prescribed study units of elements defined as Political, Economic, technological and scientific, Social and religious, and Cultural and aesthetic. Its rigidity is contestable and it is not equally suitable for all periods and topics.

There is detail to object to, from the first paragraph devoted to oral history as a resource to the virtual exclusion of the First World War. A more fundamental, if commendable, flaw is the ambition of the report, attributing to schoolchildren qualities of mind not always found in undergraduates and claiming four hours a week for history if the subject is to be taken with this degree of seriousness, while admitting it is unlikely to get four hours.

I shall criticize the definition of the contents of the course units, according to the PESC formula. I hope the debate will show there has been too much prescription, a straitjacket of "such as" material, arbitrarily defined as "essential information" when it is not.

There is no reason why the Armada should be deemed essential, or Charles I's execution merely exemplary. The Civil War, Charles I and Oliver Cromwell are all essential. Should children study the Civil War without being told that it ended, in one sense, with the abolition of the monarchy and, in another, with its restoration, also exemplary?

But why constrain teachers to this extent? The report devalues their ability to handle such topics in ways that conform to many variables, including social and ethnic background and locality and - dare I say it? - the enthusiasms of both teachers and pupils. But that is not to say we do not need a history curriculum.

● The author is Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge.

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GOYA'S MAJAS: The Naked and

Observe the truth foretold



The Pursuit of the Real is a ponderous, off-putting title for an exhibition celebrating the highest achievements of 20th century British painting. All 12 artists featured, including Sickert, Bomberg, Bacon, Auerbach and Michael Andrews, share a desire to explore intimately a subject by painting it. In the case of "Self-Portrait With Patricia Prece" (above), by Stanley Spencer, the artist likened his practice to crawling like an ant across the woman's body. Within months of completing this picture he would marry Patricia, who being a lesbian refused to consummate the marriage. Having lured him away from his first wife, Patricia used her position to fleece the artist of money and property.

For so passionate a man the marriage was frustrating and desolate. With hindsight it is easy to read into the painter's detached realism a prescient of the lovelessness that was to follow. Years after he painted this picture, and its pendant the so-called "Leg of Mutton Nude", now in the Tate Gallery, Spencer attempted without success to square the painting's implicit sexuality with his fervent Christian beliefs. There are other nudes in the show by Coldstream, Freud, Uglow and Kosoff. *The Pursuit of the Real* Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 4141). Opens Thursday, Mon-Sat, 10am-6.45pm, Sun and Bank Holidays, 12.54pm, £3.50 (£1.75 concs), until July 8. David Lee

Clothed Majas, two of Goya's most intriguing paintings, are on temporary loan from the Prado in Madrid. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2pm-6pm, free, until July 1.

ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG: Paintings 1962-1980, which collage together imagery from different media sources, by a transatlantic American Pop artist now regarded as an Old Master. Runkel-Hue-Williams, 6/8 Old Bond Street, W1 (071-487 7017). Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, free, until June 7.

OUTSIDE LONDON

IT'S A STILL LIFE: Selected from the Arts Council collection this survey of post-war British art shows a multiplicity of approaches to the still life genre. Metropolitan Arts Centre, The Leas, Folkestone (0303 55370). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30pm-5pm, free, until June 3. From today.

THE ATOMIC YARD: Photo-works reflecting on social changes in the 1950s by John Goto, last year's art fellow at Giron College, Cambridge and an artist unimpressed by Big themes.

Kettle's Yard Gallery, Castle Street, Cambridge (0223 352124). Tues-Sat, 12.30-5.30pm, free, until July 1. From Tues.

JAMES McNEILL WHISTLER (1834-1903): Etchings, lithographs, drawings and watercolours including famous impressions from the Venetian and Thames series. Ewan Mundy Gallery, 48 West George Street, Glasgow (041 331 2406). Mon-Sat, 9.30am-5.30pm, free, until June 2. From Wed.

THE COMPASS CONTRIBUTION: The 21st birthday of the city's Compass Gallery is celebrated by artists shown along the way, among them Scots Craigie Aitchison, Bellamy, Steven Campbell and William Crozier. Tramway, 25 Albert Drive, Glasgow (041 423 8527). Daily, 10am-10pm, free, until June 24. From Thurs.

FUTURELAND: Large-scale colour images based on the techniques and style of advertising, and addressing contemporary social and political

issues, by John Kippin and Chris Walmsley. Ikon Gallery, 58-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham (021 235 2900). Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm, free, until June 9. From Sat.

HENRY MOORE: WORKING MODELS AND SKETCH MODELS: Small sculptures modelled by the master's own hand in what were try-out sizes. Mead Gallery, University of Warwick, Coventry (0203 523623). Mon-Fri, 12-6pm, Sat, 10am-6pm, free, until June 12. From Sat.

WILHELMINA BARNES GRAHAM: Landscape and some abstract paintings, 1940-89, by a senior artist of the St Ives School whose members tend to deal with the landscape rather than the superficial appearances of landscape. McLaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr (0292 43708). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, free, until May 30. From today.

TRANSFORMATION: THE LEGACY OF AUTHORITY: Recent works by 21 artists from the Soviet Union in which new artistic liberties are exploited to reinterpret a past formally portrayed in the Socialist Realist style. The Minerva Art Gallery, 74 High Street, Colchester (0206 577067). Tues-Sat, 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until June 10. From Sat.

FOLLY AND VICE: A survey of satire and social criticism in art which includes all the most incisive political commentators from Goya and Hogarth to Daumier and Grosz. Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square (021 235 2800). Mon-Sat, 9.30am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, free, until June 24. From Sat.

THE MINORITIES ART GALLERY: 74 High Street, Colchester (0206 577067). Tues-Sat, 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until June 10. From Sat.

AUCTIONS SALES

John Shaw

LONDON

A LONG SHOT: Early photographs from the collection of David G. Jones, Edward Steiner's Great Britain, 1928 (£3,000-5,000) and David Bailey's study of the Krays (£800-1,200). Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, W1 (071-493 8080). Viewing: today, Monday-4.30pm, tomorrow and Wed,

8am-4.30pm. Sales: Thurs, 10.30am and 2.30pm.

VICTORIAN VALUES: Sale devoted to the 19th century including furniture, bronzes, ceramics and marbles. Christie's, 8 King Street, St James, SW1 (071-639 5500). Viewing: today, tomorrow, Wed, 9am-4pm. Sales: Thurs, 10.30am.

CRACKING GOOD STUFF: Charles C. Pool, Minton, Moorcroft and a good selection of material from the North Devon Pottery which the department feels is the coming thing (est £50-£70 for jugs, vases and figures up to £300-£400). Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (071-429 6832). Viewing: Tues, 8am-4.30pm, Wed, 9am-4pm. Sales: Thurs, 11am.

CAMEO REVIVAL: Cameo brooches are enjoying a revival among those with a taste for classical jewelry and there is one here at £200-£300. Victorian pieces include a pair of butterfly brooches mounted on ivory of the valley sprays (£1,000-£1,500). Christie's, 8 King Street, St James, SW1 (071-639 5500). Viewing: tomorrow, 8am-7.30pm. Sales: Wed, 1pm.

CAR CLASSICS: Classical music lovers will go for 1812 Op, nature loving motorists B1 RDS, and collectors 999 G or MED 1C as more off-beat car registrations come on the market from the Ministry of Transport. POP 1N to the 617 lot auction but be prepared to spend between £1,000-£2,000 a time. Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (071-429 6832). Viewing: today, 8am-4.30pm, Wed, 9am-4pm. Sales: Thurs, 11am.

ROBSON LOWE: One of the best known figures in the international stamp collecting world. The business he founded 70 years ago is now part of Christie's but the firm is holding a stamp exhibition to mark the anniversary which coincides with Stamp Fair 90 at Alexandra Palace. Among the most interesting exhibits are two halves of an 1840 red blue, bisected in 1841. The left half was sent to Beverly and the right to Lincoln but they were remarkably united after a Mr Lowe visited a friend 9 years later. His friend was using spilt from old envelopes to light his pipe. Fortunately

he tore the stamps off before using the envelopes. Mr Lowe relieved them from the wastepaper basket. After recounting the story to a reporter two years later, he was contacted by someone possessing the other half of the 1840 stamp on its original envelope. Christie's (address above). Exhibition: 47 Duke Street, SW1, tomorrow-Sat, 10am-4pm. Sale: important stamps and covers of the world, Wed, 6pm to 10 King Street, St James, SW1.

OUTSIDE LONDON

TEATIME: Dealers are already chasing a charming nursery tea set by Mabel Lucie Attell (2000-2500) which is good news for the owners who dislike the chubby teapot, milk jug and sugar bowl figures. They are in good condition for this ceramic sale. Henry Spencer and Sons, 20 The Square, Bedford, Northamptonshire (0777 708833). Viewing: tomorrow, 10am-3pm. Sale: Wed, 11am.

COLLECTABLES: Dolls, games, tin plates and other toys, cameras and 8.5mm film which includes footage of visiting at Brooklands in 1923. Aldridge, The Auction Galleries, Watford Street, Bath (0225 462830). Viewing: today, 9am-1pm. Sales: Tues, 10am.

FLYING DUCKS TO A 1959 AUSTIN SALOON: Two day 1942 lot general sale with everything from a set of four flying duck wall plaques (£80-£120) to a 1959 Austin A35 saloon with only 52,000 miles on the clock (£400-£500). "Bodywork needs tidying", say the auctioneers. The Penzance Auction House, Alverton, Penzance, Cornwall (0736 61414). Viewing: Wed, 8am-7.30pm. Sales: Thurs, Fri, 10am.

CHAPLINESQUE: Bowler, eyebrows, moustache and boots were all Chaplin needed to draw for a self-portrait to entertain A.A. Milne's niece during a court case over the weekend of 1925. The sketch, done at H.G. Wells's home in Essex, is now expected to make between £200-£300. Top lot likely to be a Victorian illuminated book (£2,000-£2,500). Lawrence Fine Art of Crewkerne, South Street, Crewkerne, Somerset (0450 73041). Viewing: tomorrow, 10am-7pm, Wed, 10am-4.30pm. Sale, Thurs, 10am.

SUSSEX SALE: Two days of sales covering English furniture, bronzes, sculpture, works of art, clocks, carpets, tapestries and a rolled paper model of a Georgian house 1785 (£15,000-£25,000). Sotheby's, Summers Place, Billingshurst, West Sussex (0403 785153). Viewing: today, 9.30am-4.30pm, tomorrow, 9.30am-4.30pm. Sales: tomorrow, 10am and 1.30pm. Wed, 10.30am and 2pm.

TRAIN SPOTTERS: City Man's 189 lot collection of Trix electric trains, 1938-40. The layout once ran from the ground to the second floor of his home on the east coast of London and over bridges. Believed to be the biggest single owner. No buyer's premium. Lacy Scott, The Auction Centre, 10, Rylabgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (0284 765331). Viewing: Fri, 4pm-8pm. Sale: Sat, 10.30am.

CERAMICS: Fifty exhibitors from all over the country showing goods from 1700-1930; plus Henry Sandars, the ceramics specialist from *Antiques Roadshow*, who will identify and value pieces brought in by the public. The South of England Ceramics Fair, Follis Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex (0434 723461). Today, 11am-5pm, admission £2.

SOUTHPORT SELECTION: Dealers like to see goods from the market and this sale offers that in pictures, furniture and ceramics from local deceased estates. J.A. Coburn, The Grosvenor Sale Rooms, 930 Eastbank Street, Southport, Merseyside (0704 500515). Viewing: today, 11am-1pm, Tues, 9am-4.30pm. Sale: Wed, 10am.

Compiled by Karl Knight

• Items for inclusion should be sent at least 10 days before publication to Preview, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ☐) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

INTERNAL AFFAIRS (18): Richard Gere and Andy Garcia as Los Angeles cops sucked into a vortex of insecurity and corruption. Thriller, given some kick by British director Mike Figgis. Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2526) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-538 8851) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whitelys (071-792 3303/3324).

NUNS ON THE RUN (12): Enid and Robbie Coltrane shattering as nuns in Janet Sumner's convent school. Fied and farcical drag comedy, armed at fencers of the strenuously zany, from writer-director Jonathan Lynn. Odeon: Haymarket (071-538 7687).

SEE YOU IN THE MORNING (12): Desperately heavy-handed romantic comedy from writer-director Alan J. Pakula, with Jeff Bridges as a psychiatrist torn between two marriages. Alice Krige, Farrah Fawcett. Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2526) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Warner West End (071-438 0791).

SWIETE (15): Prissy Australian portrait of an unstable teenager wreaking havoc on the suburban life of his shaming violent sister. A fine feature debut by director Jane Campion, poised on the knife-edge between nightmare and farce. Camden Place (071-485 2443) Chelsea Cinema (071-361 3742) Metro (071-487 0797).

CURRENT

• **ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN (U):** Dependent, unappealing cartoon fantasy about a low-life dog returning from the dead. Odeon: Leicester Square (071-636 6111) Whitelys (071-792 3303/3324).

• **ALWAYS (PG):** Spielberg's push past postmodernism of a *A Boy Named Joe* with Richard Dreyfuss as a deaf pianist returning to earth. Camden Place (071-485 2443) Odeon Shaftesbury Avenue (071-370 2526) Plaza (071-487 0797).

• **BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE (PG):** Amiable if witless comedy about time-travelling, woolly-headed teenagers. Keanu Reeves, Alex Winter. Cannon: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeon Shaftesbury Avenue (071-370 2526).

• **BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (18):** Dynamic as violence gets from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent as paraplegic Ron Kovic. Plaza (071-497 9999).

• **CINEMA PARADISO (PG):** Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema as a lonely aspiring artist to the movies. Cuzco: Mayfair (071-485 8855) West End (071-438 0791).

• **COLD FEET (15):** Wayward comedy-drama about three petty criminals in Montana, co-written by novelist Tom McGuire with Tom Waits, Karl Carradine, Sally Kellerman, and directed by odd-ball writer Robert Downham. ICA Cinema (071-930 3647).

• **DRIVING MISS DAISY (U):** Sweet, endearing film of Alfred Ury's play about a retired soldier who (Leslie Tandy) and her truck chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Directed by Bruce Beresford. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2526) Metro (071-235 4225) Notting Hill Cinema (071-272 6705) Screen on Baker Street (071-438 0791) Warner (071-438 0791).

• **ENEMIES, A LOVE STORY (15):** Isaac Bashevis Singer's novel about a Holocaust survivor's complicated love life, stylishly reworked by Paul Mazursky. Ron Shaw, Angela Huston. Cannon: Park Lane (071-930 0531) Screen on the Hill (071-438 0791).

• **THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS (15):** Highly diverting fireworks between a blonde singer (Michelle Pfeiffer) and two cocky partners (Jeff and Beau Bridges). Cannon: Shaftesbury Avenue (071-370 2526) Odeon: Kensington (071-322 5038) 664/5 Leicester Square (071-330 6111).

• **HENRY V (PG):** Visually droll version of Shakespeare's play from *wunderland* Kenneth Branagh, who directs and stars. With Paul Scofield, Emma Thompson, Judi Dench. Cuzco: Shaftesbury (071-438 0791).

• **THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER (PG):** Sean Connery as a Soviet submarine commander trying to defect. "Excellent production" ST FOR THESE WEEKS ONLY. Directed by John Badham. Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2526) Empire (071-497 9999) Whitelys (071-792 3303/3324).

JESUS OF MONTREAL (18): An updated version of a Passion play causes controversy in Montreal. Strained, earnest fireworks from Denys Arcand, Canadian director. The October of the American Empire. Premiere (071-438 4470) Rencor (071-537 8492).

• **THE KRAVYS (18):** Brooding, bloody drama about the rise and fall of the East End gangsters, from war-time childhood to incarceration in separate prisons. Foster Meek directs an imaginatively chosen cast. Gary and Martin Kemp, Ellis Whitelys. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon: Chelsea (071-352 5038) Odeon: Kensington (071-636 6111) Swiss Cottage (071-232 5035) Warner West End (071-438 0791) Whitelys (071-792 3303/3324).

• **LOOK WHO'S TALKING (12):** Intimate comedy about an unmarried mum and her talking baby. John Travolta, Krisley and Bruce Willis's voices. Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5038) Haymarket (071-538 7687) Oxford Street (071-438 0791) Odeon: Kensington (071-636 6111) Leicester Square (071-636 6111) Swiss Cottage (071-232 5035) Warner West End (071-438 0791) Whitelys (071-792 3303/3324).

• **MACABE AND MISS MILLER (18):** Renewal of Robert Altman's moody Western of a gambler (Warren Beatty) establishing a bordello in a mining town. With the Christie. Cannon: Park Lane (071-930 0531).

• **MONSIEUR HIRE (15):** Intense, stylish version of Samuel Beckett about a hapless, dark obsession with his neighbour, a striking achievement by director Patrice Leconte, previously known for comedies. With Michel Blanc and Catherine Breillat. Lumiere (071-836 0591).

• **MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON (15):** Bob Fosse's wayward epic about Victorian explorers Burton and Speke searching for the Nile's source. Patrick Bergin, Ian Glen. Barbican (071-636 6111) Odeon: Kensington (071-636 6111) Leicester Square (071-636 6111).

• **MY LEFT FOOT (15):** The Christy Brown story, uplifting here, marvellously acted, with Oscar-winner Daniel Day-Lewis as the disabled Irishman. Cannon: Chelsea (071-352 5038) Premiere (071-438 4470) Screen on Baker Street (071-438 0791) Whitelys (071-792 3303/3324).

• **NEXT OF KIN (15):** A Kentucky clan fights the Mafia. Polishing Patrick Swayze works, partly saved by John Travolta. Cannon: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Warner West End (071-438 0791).

• **ROGER AND ME (15):** Michael Moore's iconoclastic documentary about GM's effect on his factory closures on the director's home town. Cannon: Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6111) Screen on the Green (071-438 0791).

• **SANTA SANGRE (18):** Alejandro Jodorowsky's extraordinary, disturbing, blood-soaked fantasy set in a travelling circus. Metro (071-437 0757) Gaze (071-727 4043).

• **SEA OF LOVE (18):** Superior thriller, cracking with electricity. A Pacino stars as a New York cop who becomes emotionally involved with a murder suspect (Catherine Deneuve). Directed by Harold Becker. Cannon: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Plocecity (071-437 3581).

• **A SHORT FILM ABOUT LOVE (18):** Krzysztof Kieslowski's powerful and subtle tale about love and sexual failure. Second in the series based on the Ten Commandments. Premiere (071-438 4470).

• **TROPIC BELLE POUR TOI (18):** Catherine Deneuve's seductive tale of a woman who seduces her husband and mistress. Skilled acting on masterful mores from Bertrand Blier. Premiere (071-438 4470) Rencor (071-537 8492).

• **UNCLE BUCK (12):** Funny comedy with John Candy as a ne'er-do-well taking care of his brother's children. Plaza (071-497 9999) Whitelys (071-792 3303/3324).

• **THE WAR OF THE ROSES (15):** A perfect marriage self-destructs violently. Exhausting black comedy, with Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. Odeon: Kensington (071-322 5038) Plocecity (071-437 3581) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6111) Leicester Square (071-636 6111) Whitelys (071-792 3303/3324).

• **IN REPERTORY**

EVERYMAN (071-435 1252). Warden's *The American Friend*. Catherine Deneuve's *The Witches of Salem*. **NATIONAL FILM THEATRE (071-928 3535).** Bergman's version of *The Magic Flute* (also tomorrow); *Karel Rencor's* essential thriller *The Gambler*.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2170

ACROSS

- Small portion (8)
- Scenic race ancestor (4)
- Set inside (7)
- Lemon citrus (5)
- Lament silently (5,8)
- Long blade (5)
- Feed up (5)
- Baron's War king (5,5)
- Written defamations (5)
- Bones vault (7)
- Hurry (4)
- Agard (8)

DOWN

- Hunt (5)
- Pre-purchase test (5)
- Guided (7)
- In tense state (2,11)
- Cigar container (7)
- Rich (7)
- Animal parasite (4)
- Uncooked (3)
- Clever pupil (7)
- Bus (7)
- First shirt cotton (7)
- 16 Musical ability (3)
- 19 Unsuitable (5)
- 20 Wood nymph (5)

SATURDAY'S JUMBO CONCISE CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1 Salome's Dance of the Seven Veils 15 No sellout 16 Ring of Roses 17 Tessa 18 High priests 19 Tubing 20 Bearings 22 Off course 24 As one article 25 Beau 27 Issing 28 Approval 29 Stole a lead 31 Automatic 33 gile 36 Pastime 38 Archaeologist 39 Reminiscence 42 Neat 43 Superb power 43 Wonderful sight 45 Obeyed 46 Downgraded 47 Intimate 50 Penicillin 52 Havering 54 Recycle 57 Rate 58 No alcoholic 59 Cultivate 61 Universe 62 Bye-bye 63 Well advised 66 Ink in 67 Attacks them 68 Endless in 69 Harry in haste repeat at least

DOWN: 1 Synchronisation 2 Last gifts 3 Malapropism 4 Shoji 5 Artistic 6 Cardinals 7 Ornithologist 8 Troublemaker 9 Errantry 10 East 11 Easter lily 12 Voters 13 Insincere 14 Star-studded 21 Little learning 23 Right an gle 26 Pastime 28 Archaeologist 30 Reminiscence 32 Tossing 33 Superb 35 At night 36 Structural 38 Currency 40 Interdependence 41 Good fellowship 44 Breathalyzer 45 Opportunism 48 Machiavelli 49 Bloodstain 51 Nu-picker 53 Iota woman 55 Ceaseless 56 Ice yacht 59 Caldera 60 Keenly 64 Awful 65 Izza

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

OLITORY

(b) Pertaining to kitchen vegetable, from the Latin *hortus*, a garden, from *hortus*, a pot-herb. "The proper supplies of herbs, and other olitory productions, for the kitchen."

TOHU BOHU

(c) Emptiness and desolation, chaos, from the Hebrew *tohu va-bohu*; Browning: "How from this tohu va-bohu a chaos which was, / And fears which were."

CORYZA

(a) A stinking cold in the head, nasal catarrh, from the Greek *koryza*. "These rheumes/It to the breast they flow/It to the calf's Catherine/But running through the nose/It's called Coryza: others say the Nose."</

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THE TIMES MONDAY MAY 7 1990

League under bank holiday cloud

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

THE inevitable inquiry into the violent disturbances in Bournemouth this weekend could lead to a widening of the gap between football's ruling bodies. It will be held by the Football Association and the Football League, which refused to alter the timing of the match involving the visit of Leeds United.

When the fixture list was published 11 months ago, the police recognized the potentially fearful consequences. In June the League was advised that, if the south coast resort was to accommodate the notorious followers of Leeds, a bank holiday weekend might not be the ideal occasion.

Police requests for a re-arrangement became more urgent once the game increased in significance. With promo-

tion and the second-division championship at stake for Leeds and the relegation of Bournemouth all resting on the outcome, the event was volatile even if the mixture had not been fuelled by alcohol and a burning sun.

To defuse the situation, an army of 700 policemen (some mounted and many equipped for a riot) were gathered from seven different forces. Their contribution cannot be underestimated. Without them, Dean Park might have been transformed from a picturesque area into a scene reminiscent of Hillsborough last April.

It was terrifying enough as it was. King's Park, the spacious area behind the main stand, resembled a scene of ancient warfare. For more than two hours before the kick-off, thousands of ticketless north-ers expressed their frustration by hurling missiles, such

as bricks and bottles, at the men in uniform.

Mercifully, the gesture was futile and miraculously the match not only started but also finished on schedule. Apart from one brief, isolated outbreak of crowd trouble, the behaviour of the 9,918 spectators inside the stadium offered a stark contrast to the unruliness outside and elsewhere in the town.

Alan Rose, Dorset's Deputy Chief Constable, claimed with every justification that the police operation, mounted at a cost of £100,000 and planned for a month, was "a success". He estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 Leeds supporters were "held back on getting in without tickets and we stopped them."

"We could have refused to police the game but we've never done that in this county. There might have been more arrests but we would then

have lost policemen and we needed every one of those 700. If Leeds had lost, it might have been a different matter." He could not have been accused of exaggeration.

"You cannot ban games," he added. "That would be giving in to hooligans. But the Football League must take more notice of senior police officers who have hard intelligence that there will be problems."

The League had insisted that, for the sake of fairness, all of the closing fixtures should be held simultaneously.

"After Hillsborough I would have thought that safety is more important than the integrity of the second-division championship," the Deputy Chief Constable said. "Besides, in the present climate concerning the possible re-entry of clubs into Europe, it was wrong for this sort of

thing to happen. I've been in the force for 33 years here and I've never seen scenes like this and that includes the Mods and Rockers in the Sixties. There were 2,000 people on Friday night, mixing with holidaymakers and residents, who were just committed to causing chaos."

His words should shake the complacency of the misguided who believe that the threat of hooliganism has been removed.

As the innocent citizens of Bournemouth can confirm, it has merely been displaced. Ironically, the FA had already planned to reduce the danger posed by the presence of Leeds in the first division.

The availability of tickets for their away games next season is to be the principal topic of discussion between the FA and the club this summer. The League, unknown to the FA, had 11

months' notice and still did not show the same foresight as the other ruling body.

Bill Fox, the president of the League, said yesterday: "It is easy to talk with hindsight. For three years the Leeds fans have been very well behaved. Perhaps we should have moved the game and maybe we will have to look at not playing any fixture at coastal resorts over bank holiday weekends."

Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, apparently solved the club of blame. "The interests of those who went to Bournemouth without tickets do not coincide with the interests of Leeds," he said.

"I trust that those arrested will have restriction orders imposed on them, under the new legislation, to prevent them leaving the country."

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Match report, page 28

IAN STEWART

McIrvine jumps into reckoning for Stockholm

By Jenny MacArthur

NICOLA McIrvine fulfilled her long-standing dream by winning the Whitbread Trophy on Middle Road at Badminton yesterday, a victory which came after four days of dramatic competition in which the emergence of new names amongst the leaders - pushing out the established riders - indicates a new era in the sport.

Prominent among these was the gutsy and talented New Zealander, Blyth Tait, on Messiah, competing in his first Badminton, who took second place, and two younger riders, Pippa Nolan, on Sir Barnaby and Susanna Macaire, on Master Marius, who finished in fifth and seventh places. Mary Thomson and King Boris, the runners-up last year, finished third and fourth, and she was also eighth, on King Cuthbert - a result which should give her chances of selection for the world championships in Stockholm no harm.

For Claire Bowley, the overnight leader after her brilliant cross-country performance on Fair Share, the pressure of going last in yesterday's show jumping - and needing a clear round to win - proved too much. In a few bitter moments she dropped from first to twelfth place after knocking down five fences.

For McIrvine, aged 29, who was seventh at Badminton on the last two occasions, it was difficult at first for her to take in her win. "I've dreamt about it for years, I can't believe it," she said, referring to Sebastian Coe, her boyfriend. Coe appeared quickly at her side to congratulate her.

Before coming to Badminton, McIrvine, who lives at Effingham in Surrey, thought finishing in the top 10 would be "fantastic". Now she has the world championships in her sights - she was told just before her winning round yesterday that she has been long-listed for Stockholm.

Tait has also almost certainly jumped his way into those championships in what looks like being a powerful New Zealand squad. His performance - 10 years after the then unknown Mark Todd won Badminton at his first attempt - has given the New Zealand team a timely morale booster.

Todd, although only nineteenth yesterday, was pleased with his performance on Bahluu, who apart from an unlucky refusal at the Coffin on the cross-country, did little wrong this week. His other ride, Michaelmas Day, who he calls his "fun horse", deposited him in the water at five on the cross-country.

Only three riders in the last



McIrvine: dream fulfilled

20 managed to go clear in the yesterday's show jumping, designed by Jon Doney. Ian Stark was clear on both Glenburnie - on which he had 20 penalties at the lake fence on Saturday - and Murphy Himself, whose scintillating jumping on the cross-country was one of the highlights of the event. Frustratingly for Stark, who incurred time penalties by Murphy on the cross-country, his clear rounds yesterday could lift him to only fourteenth and fifteenth places.

Virginia Leng, the defending champion, also completed a fine clear round yesterday, on Griffin, lifting her from eighteenth to tenth place - a result which owes much to her tactful, intelligent riding on the cross-country.

Tait, a former show jumper who has based himself in Wiltshire for the last year, produced the other clear round yesterday despite his horse, the New Zealand-bred Messiah, feeling "a little bit jarred up with the hard ground."

Mary Thomson, going third from last - riders go in reverse order of merit in the show jumping - took some pressure off McIrvine when she collected five penalties. But McIrvine, though incurring 0.5 time faults, made no jumping mistakes. "He's so honest and careful," she said afterwards of the 14-year-old gelding owned by her mother, Mrs Roger Elliott, who bought him from Ireland as a four-year-old. "I always knew he could go well at Badminton and I'm just glad I've finally proved it."

RESULTS: 1, Middle Road (N McIrvine), 50.30pts; 2, Messiah (B Tait), 55.20pts; 3, King Boris (M Thomson), 55.20pts; 4, Barnaby Brown (P Nolan), 61.40pts; 5, Sir Barnaby (P Nolan), 61.40pts; 6, The Irishman (R Powell), 61.80pts; 7, Master Marius (S Macaire), 62.40pts; 8, King Cuthbert (M Thomson), 65.20pts; 9, Get Smart (K Searley), 66.80pts; 10, Griffin (V Leng), 72.

Olazábal a step nearer to first victory in Britain

By Mitchell Platt, Golf Correspondent

José-Maria Olazábal captured the lead in the Benson and Hedges International with a third round of 69 at St Mellion, near Plymouth, yesterday.

It is nothing new for Olazábal to be showing the way. He has won six tournaments in five countries since he became in 1986 a member of the PGA European Tour. Olazábal, however, has not won in Britain.

To remedy that situation Olazábal, who has an aggregate of 206, which is 10 under par, will need to parry the thrusts of Ian Woosnam, one stroke behind following a 69, and Mark McNulty, who took 73 for 209. Colin Montgomerie is another two strokes adrift following a 70.

What is more, Olazábal has a score to settle with Woosnam. It was Woosnam who beat him in the Suntory World Match Play Championship last October and Woosnam who got the better of him in the Irish Open last June.

"It is time for me to show Ian what I can do," Olazábal said. "In Ireland I didn't have a nice day. The weather was lovely, the game wasn't. The weather was also lovely."

THIRD-ROUND SCORES

LEADERS (GB and the rest of Europe): 206, J M Olazábal (S), 69, 68, 69, 206; 207, I Woosnam, 69, 69, 69, 207; 208, M McNulty (Zim), 68, 73, 211; C Montgomerie, 68, 72, 73, 213; B Leng (W), 72, 72, 69, 213; 214, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 215, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 216, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 217, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 218, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 219, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 220, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 221, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 222, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 223, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 224, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 225, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 226, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 227, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 228, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 229, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 230, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 231, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 232, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 233, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 234, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 235, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 236, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 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489, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 214; 490, J Hyslop (S), 71, 71, 72, 21

On a small lawn comes a timely reminder of how the beautiful game can still be played

A method which touches even the sceptics

By Clive White

After a week in which we had read of the dull, depressing theories of Charles Hughes, the Football Association's director of coaching and education, it restored one's faith in the game to hear and see how some people — and not without distinction — believe that the emphasis should be put back on entertainment.

In the late Seventies the rise in the threat of defensive tactics worldwide prompted Wiel Coerver, a Dutch coach, to develop a method which he hoped might give the advantage back to the

individualist. He decided to analyse the great dribblers in history to see if their skills could be emulated by those not blessed with insatiable gifts. And so it was that the Coerver Method was born and has since been further developed and expanded into a programme dealing with all aspects of the game.

Some years ago, at the behest of Don Howe, the England coach, Coerver came to England to demonstrate his method on Hughes's territory at Lilleshall and spent six months there, three years ago, working with the boys from the School of Excellence. Howe noted

that Rod Thomas, of Watford, was one of several boys to benefit from the Dutchman's ideas. But Coerver has not been back since. It was time again yesterday, therefore, to reawaken interest and remind us all of how the beautiful game can still be played. So the Coerver school put on a demonstration on a small lawn opposite the House of Commons — a respectable distance from a professional League ground.

Coerver himself was not present but thanks to the support of Adidas the event did not want for a turnout from famous names —

Matthews, Bobby Charlton, Moore, Karl Heister, Rummenigge, Beardsley and Brady plus rising stars such as Mark Robins, of Manchester United.

An essential part of the method is a dribbling sequence which can incorporate the individual tricks of any number of great players such as Maradona, Rivelino and Cruyff. The practical session with boys from schools in England and the United States, where the Coerver Method has developed into almost a cult, was taken by Charlie Cooke the former Chelsea player and a director of Coerver coaching in the United States. It made for an

impressive display as Cooke barked out his instructions and the boys responded all in time with an imitation of a particular player's favourite move.

It is believed that the programme can have a drastic effect on the old as well as the young. Cooke, no mean dribbler in his Stamford Bridge days, believed that it had improved him as a player even at his late age. "The first season I came into the Chelsea team I scored 14 goals, but thereafter steadily fewer each season. Naively I began to see myself as purely a creative player. I eventually came out of the game with less than when

I went into it. Practising skills like these would have helped make me better."

He and Alfred Galustian, director of the company in the UK, accepted that the players must be able to perform the various routines in a competitive framework, lest it be seen as a piece of showbusiness rather than sport. Consequently Galustian who began his own playing career at Wimbledon of all places, and Cooke, were careful about describing it as fun. But judging from the smiling face of Rummenigge, never mind the boys, no one was in much doubt about that.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Widnes ignore their bitter feelings and reach another final

By Keith Macklin

Leeds 7
Widnes 27

FOR a record third successive season, Widnes have shrugged off the bitter disappointment of failing to get to Wembley by storming into the final of the Stones Bitter Premiership, the event they have made their special province with five wins already to their credit.

The Leeds supporters in the 17,000 crowd at Headingley were streaming resignedly to the exits long before the hooter sounded in an ultimately one-sided semi-final, in which Jonathan Davies prepared himself for the tour of Papua New Guinea and New Zealand with 14 points from a try and five goals.

It was, for Leeds, a sad ending to a season in which

they finished second to Wigan in the championship and shared the total eclipse of Yorkshire clubs in the Challenge Cup. Widnes, have not always fired on all cylinders this season, but their speed and handling skills at Headingley, built on a foundation of a marauding pack of forwards, gave Leeds no more than 20 minutes of equality.

Ackerman snatched an opportunistic try for Leeds from a Schofield high kick, and Schofield dropped a goal to give the home side an early 5-0 lead, and after two penalty goals from Davies, a penalty from Maskill had Leeds in front at 7-4.

The turning point was a penalty try awarded to Davies when he kicked ahead after a Leeds passing movement had broken down in their own 22-metre area. Davies followed

up with another well-judged short kick to the line, and would have undoubtedly have vouched down had he not been brought down by Ford. The award of a penalty try was a formality.

The second half went totally the way of Widnes and became a formality, providing an exhibition platform on which the premiership holders felt free to parade all their sweeping talents.

As Leeds faded and fell into disarray, Davies beat three men in a tiny space to send Currier away and McKenzie backed up to score. The skilful prompter Holliday dropped a goal and an irresistible surge by the Widnes forwards saw Koloto storm through and Eyles run over for Davies to land his fifth goal.

The final Widnes try went fittingly to Offiah, who again played with a pain-killing injection in the injured toe which will keep him out of the first part of the summer tour. Wright made the initial break and Offiah swept round the remnants of the broken defence, following his touchdown with a leap over the containing wall into the jubilant Widnes supporters.

SCORERS: Leeds: Try: Ackerman, Goal: Schofield. Widnes: Try: Davies, Goal: Davies, Offiah, Maskill. Leeds: Try: Davies, Goal: Davies, Offiah, Maskill. Widnes: Try: Davies, Goal: Davies, Offiah, Maskill.

GOLF

O'Shea strikes on his own

By John Hennessy

JEROME O'Shea, a member of the all-conquering Ealing team of amateur golfers, struck it rich on his own for the first time at the Berkshire yesterday. With two rounds of 68 over the red course (four under par) for a record total of 271, 16 under par (one round having been won by the par-71 blue), he played by five strokes from Don Gammon, a South African aged 26.

Ealing are the English and European club champions, but until yesterday O'Shea's principal claim to fame was that of former Middlesex champion. His 68 in the morning had given him a lead of four strokes over Liam White of Wokingham Park, and Andrew Rogers, also of Ealing. Two birdies in the first three holes in the afternoon consolidated his position and when things seemed to be going awry later he had some outrageous strokes of fortune.

At the 4th he got down in two from the tee to drop only one shot; at the 5th he backed

the ball on to the green from under a tree and holed with 25 feet for par; and at the 7th, where he so feared a lost ball that he played a provisional, he pitched to 30 feet and rolled in the put for a par four.

O'Shea, aged 29, turned with his four-stroke lead intact, ahead now of White and Mark Wiggott, of Boscombe. He holed from 12 feet for a birdie at the 10th and, short of some up-and-down, he was home and dried, though we would have been less confident had he known that Gammon was storming home in 64.

A two at the last from 15 feet, beating John Metcalfe's winning score last year by one shot, was a splendid way to ring down the curtain.

LEADING SCORES: (blue course first): 271: J O'Shea (Ealing), 68, 69, 68, 66, 276: L White (Wokingham Park), 69, 68, 70, 71, 278: M Wiggott (Boscombe), 72, 69, 68, 68, 277: A Rogers (Ealing), 71, 69, 70, 68, 278: D Gammon (South Africa), 71, 69, 70, 68, 279: J Metcalfe (Ealing), 71, 69, 70, 69, 280: J White (Wokingham Park), 71, 69, 70, 69, 281: J Metcalfe (Ealing), 71, 69, 70, 69, 282: J White (Wokingham Park), 71, 69, 70, 69, 283: J Metcalfe (Ealing), 71, 69, 70, 69, 284: J White (Wokingham Park), 71, 69, 70, 69, 285: J Metcalfe (Ealing), 71, 69, 70, 69, 286: J White (Wokingham Park), 71, 69, 70, 69, 287: J Metcalfe (Ealing), 71, 69, 70, 69, 288: J White (Wokingham Park), 71, 69, 70, 69, 289: J Metcalfe (Ealing), 71, 69, 70, 69, 290: J White (Wokingham Park), 71, 69, 70, 69, 291: J Metcalfe (Ealing), 71, 69, 70, 69, 292: J White (Wokingham Park), 71, 69, 70, 69, 293: J Metcalfe (Ealing), 71, 69, 70, 69, 294: J White (Wokingham Park), 71, 69, 70, 69, 295: J Metcalfe (Ealing), 71, 69, 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Away victories by Luton Town and Nottingham Forest commit Sheffield Wednesday to the second division

ANTHONY PHILIPS

Two goals by Black inspire escape of athletic proportions

By David Powell

Derby County..... 2
Luton Town..... 1

WHO will wear the straight-jacket with Charlton Athletic gone, we wondered? The first division had looked short of an escapee, but there was, after all, Houdini in the house. Luton, last season's apprentice, came forward with an act as dramatic as the one seen at the top of the League a year ago.

Last season, a home win over Norwich City, in their final match, ensured Luton's safety. This time, they needed two away wins in their favour: their own victory at Derby and Nottingham Forest's at Sheffield Wednesday. Nothing less would have done.

Jim Ryan, the Luton manager, was asked what odds he would have offered had he been a bookmaker. He said that he did not know because he did not have a bookmaker's mind. Manger, of bookmaker, in either mind it was a good day: the Baseball Ground odds on a 2-3 result were 40-1; on Breacker scoring the first goal, which he did after two minutes, 33-1.

Luton celebrated unashamedly, though Ryan disapproved one supporter, whose banner read: "If Jim gets the chance, he will do a Dave Pate dance." Nobody at Luton forgets 1983, when they needed to win at Maine Road to relegate Manchester City in place of themselves, and did. Pate ran, in ecstasy, across the pitch to hug Brian Horton, his captain. Ryan's was a more sober response, but if anyone deserved hugging it was Black, his winger.

Black scored two goals, his second 15 minutes from time after Derby had equalized having been 2-0 down. His first - Luton's second - came from a Wilson cross touched into his path by Dowie and struck low into a corner. His second was from a shot which made up in direction what it lacked in pace, scraping in off the post. "You don't always

FINAL POSITIONS

Barclays League
First division

Champions: Liverpool.
Relegated: Millwall, Charlton Athletic, Sheffield Wednesday.

Second division
Champions: Leeds United.
Also promoted: Sheffield United.
In play-offs: Nottingham Forest, Swindon Town, Walsley, Sunderland.
Relegated: Stoke City, Bradford City, Bournemouth.

Third division
Champions: Bristol Rovers.
Also promoted: Bristol City, Tranmere Rovers, Bury, Bolton Wanderers.
Relegated: Walsley, Blackpool, Northampton Town, Cardiff City.

Fourth division
Champions: Exeter City.
Also promoted: Grimsby Town, Southend United, Millwall, Cambridge United, Chesterfield.

Relegated: Colchester United, Gillingham, Conference, Gillingham, Conference.

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PLAY-OFF DATES

Semi-finals: First leg May 13, second leg May 15. Final: May 19 at Wembley, May 20 at 2.25.

SEMI-FINALS: Blackpool Rovers v Swindon Town; Sunderland v Newcastle.

THIRD DIVISION: Bolton Wanderers v Notts County; Bury v Tranmere Rovers.

FOURTH DIVISION: Chesterfield v Stockport County; Cambridge United v Maidstone United.

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United front: the Leeds defence, with Day, Jones and Chapman prominent, outnumbers and outwits an attack from Aylott, of Bournemouth

A polluted whiff of south coast

By Clive White

Leicester City..... 2
Sheffield United..... 5

Bournemouth..... 0
Leeds United..... 1

A VISIT to Dean Park on the south coast is invariably a

disappointment. Not on Saturday. Every aspect of the occasion, from the sight of thousands of tattooed, bare-chested drunks marching through the streets to the

completion of a surprisingly limp and thoroughly undistinguished fixture, was profoundly depressing.

The air was thick and sticky with apprehension. Responsible spectators wondered whether they would be able safely to enter the ground and, later, freely to leave. The players were no less inhibited by nerves.

For Bournemouth, in particular, the whole season rested on the result.

Realistically, their fate was never in doubt. The gap between the sides was as marked as it was in last season. Bournemouth went down to the third division without raising a single genuine threat and Leeds United climbed up to the first as champions in spite of scoring half a dozen opportunities.

Chapman's crisp header from Karama's cross early in the second half was sufficient to claim the title, albeit only on goal difference (the leaders for five months, they were once 10 points clear). Yet, as Howard Wilkinson, their manager, said later: "A scoreline of 1-0 was kind to Bournemouth."

Shamefully, the so-called supporters of his club could not claim the title, albeit only on goal difference (the leaders for five months, they were once 10 points clear). Yet, as Howard Wilkinson, their manager, said later: "A scoreline of 1-0 was kind to Bournemouth."

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Persilliant pick for valuable hurdle

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)
PERSILLANT, with Graham McCourt riding, appeals as a good bet to win the Swinton Park Trophy at Haydock Park today, and he is my nap.
 A victory for this Nigel Tinkler-trained six-year-old such a valuable handicap hurdle deserves following thoroughly sound performances at Cheltenham and Aintree where he was placed each time. On both occasions he was narrowly beaten by others at the height of their powers.
 At Cheltenham he went under by only half a length and the same to Moody Man, who had won the Imperial Cup at Sandown Park only five days earlier, and Smart Performer, who was also liv-



Graham McCourt: united again with Persillant still feel that today's race has a more competitive edge.

Saypore has won the Scottish Champion Hurdle at Ayr where he beat Don Valentino by six lengths.
 A strict interpretation of that form now gives him the same sort of chance as Kadan who also accounted for Don Valentino at Uttoxeter last time out. As he is a fresh horse with only one race since the middle of winter under his belt, Kadan could easily turn out to be Persillant's main rival.
 Earlier in the programme Dancing River can initiate a double for McCourt by winning the Tailor-Made Sports Four-Year-Old Only Handicap Hurdle at the expense of Shamirani, a rival of old. At Kempton, I rather like the look of **Pride Of Araby**'s chance of winning the Jubilee

Handicap now that a strong early pace looks guaranteed.
 On his seasonal debut at Newbury the Roger Charlton-trained four-year-old raced far too freely for his own good when he contested the Spring Cup which was run for some strange reason at a crawl early on instead of its usual helterskelter pace.
 Katsakeena (2.10) and Well Farnished (3.10) are other likely winners for **Pride Of Araby's** jockey, Pat Eddery. Finally, the way that Craft Express performed at Sandown recently when he finished a close seventh behind Micro Love suggested that he was fast running into form. At his best he should be capable of winning the Coal Miner Handicap at Doncaster even with 9stone to carry.

KEMPTON PARK

Selections

- By Our Newmarket Correspondent
- 2.10 Katsakeena.
 - 2.40 Oogie Pogie.
 - 3.10 Well Farnished.
 - 3.40 **Pride Of Araby**.
 - 4.10 Barbican.
 - 4.40 African Chimes.
 - 5.10 Thakib.
- By Michael Seely
- 3.10 Well Farnished.
 - 5.10 **THAKIB** (nap).
- The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.10 **TARA'S DELIGHT**.

Going: good to firm

Draw: 5-6f, high numbers best

101 (20)	229-1	KATZAKEENA 21 (D.J.) (Miss R Hill) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
102 (19)	50-1	MICROBES 14 (D.J.) (Miss R Hill) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
103 (18)	50-1	AMIELI ROSE (N. Alderson) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
104 (17)	50-1	ARETHUSA LEISURE 27 (Archie) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
105 (16)	50-1	BALENTINE 102 (T. Warren) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
106 (15)	50-1	COMIC ON PAR 19 (Mrs S. D. Dwyer) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
107 (14)	50-1	CONSTANT DELIGHT 21 (Cheltenham) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
108 (13)	50-1	CORRIANNE 11 (M. Hession) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
109 (12)	50-1	DIANA KATRINA 16 (Mrs E. Wood) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
110 (11)	50-1	ELFORD 10 (Mrs E. Wood) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
111 (10)	50-1	FLYING FLY 10 (J. A. Hill) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
112 (9)	50-1	KATIES FIRST 44 (C. Coe) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
113 (8)	50-1	MAZE MANHATTAN 186 (Yorkshire) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
114 (7)	50-1	MAGNETIZE 246 (Mrs R. W. Hession) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
115 (6)	50-1	NIGHT JAR 177 (J. Thomas) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
116 (5)	50-1	NOT QUITE FREE 16 (P. Callaghan) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
117 (4)	50-1	QUEEN'S POWER 14 (P. Callaghan) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
118 (3)	50-1	PETTYBURY 198 (Mrs J. Hession) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
119 (2)	50-1	POSSIBLE 127 (D. Dames) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
120 (1)	50-1	QUICK PROFIT 237 (T. Holland) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3

BETTING: 5-1 Katsakeena, 5-2 Oogie Pogie, 5-1 Constant Delight, 7-1 Microbes, 9-1 Come On Par, 12-1 Kade's First, 14-1 Arcturus, 15-1 Maze Manhattan, 25-1 others.

1989: PATSY WESTER 8-10 Paul Eddery (5-1) W. Jarvis 13 run

2.40 SYON PARK MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,696: 1m) (10 runners)

201 (8)	0-4	BLACK FIGHTER 20 (E. Puckett) M Mountrach 8-11	L. Dabell 8-11
202 (7)	229-1	BLUE ROOM 167 (D. Hill) P Mountrach 8-11	L. Dabell 8-11
203 (6)	0-4	CHERRY 16 (D. Hill) P Mountrach 8-11	L. Dabell 8-11
204 (5)	0-4	GREY POWER 177 (J. Smith) P Mountrach 8-11	L. Dabell 8-11
205 (4)	0-4	MACE TATTOO 23 (P. Pritchard) P Mountrach 8-11	L. Dabell 8-11
206 (3)	0-4	OGGIE POGGIE 225 (D. Hill) P Mountrach 8-11	L. Dabell 8-11
207 (2)	0-4	QUICK PROFIT 237 (T. Holland) P Mountrach 8-11	L. Dabell 8-11
208 (1)	0-4	PLAYING WITH 21 (Cheltenham) P Mountrach 8-11	L. Dabell 8-11
209 (0)	0-4	POLYSTIC 216 (T. Sumner) P Mountrach 8-11	L. Dabell 8-11
210 (0)	0-4	SLICK CHERRY 10 (H. Reddick) P Mountrach 8-11	L. Dabell 8-11

BETTING: 5-1 Oogie Pogie, 7-2 Miss Testing, 8-1 Slick Cherry, 8-1 Black Fighter, 10-1 Playing With, 15-1 Blue Room.

FORM FOCUS

CHERRYING will need to improve considerably on her 11th to 24th place finish at Newbury (7f) on 12th May to have a chance of winning the 10f maiden at Sandown (1m) on 13th May. **SLICK CHERRY** was a promising maiden when she won at Sandown (1m) on 12th May. **OGGIE POGGIE** stayed on with promise when 2nd beaten by 1/2 by **OGGIE** (level) at Sandown (1m).

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3.40 JUBILEE HANDICAP (£20,990: 1m) (12 runners)

401 (11)	329-1	PRIDE OF ARABY 16 (D.J.) (Miss R Hill) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
402 (10)	329-1	CURTAIN CALL 16 (D.J.) (Miss R Hill) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
403 (9)	329-1	SCOTT CONNOR 21 (D.J.) (Miss R Hill) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
404 (8)	329-1	EVICHTAR 21 (D.J.) (Miss R Hill) P Mountrach 9-3	Pat Eddery 9-3
405 (7)	329-1	329-1	Pat Eddery 9-3
406 (6)	329-1	329-1	Pat Eddery 9-3
407 (5)	329-1	329-1	Pat Eddery 9-3
408 (4)	329-1	329-1	Pat Eddery 9-3
409 (3)	329-1	329-1	Pat Eddery 9-3
410 (2)	329-1	329-1	Pat Eddery 9-3
411 (1)	329-1	329-1	Pat Eddery 9-3
412 (0)	329-1	329-1	Pat Eddery 9-3

BETTING: 7-2 Evichitar, 8-1 Sky Conqueror, 11-2 **Pride Of Araby**, 7-1 Well Farnished, 10-1 Farnish, 12-1 Langley Lady, 14-1 Laidlaw, 15-1 Laidlaw, 16-1 Laidlaw, 17-1 Laidlaw, 18-1 Laidlaw, 19-1 Laidlaw, 20-1 Laidlaw, 21-1 Laidlaw, 22-1 Laidlaw, 23-1 Laidlaw, 24-1 Laidlaw, 25-1 Laidlaw, 26-1 Laidlaw, 27-1 Laidlaw, 28-1 Laidlaw, 29-1 Laidlaw, 30-1 Laidlaw, 31-1 Laidlaw, 32-1 Laidlaw, 33-1 Laidlaw, 34-1 Laidlaw, 35-1 Laidlaw, 36-1 Laidlaw, 37-1 Laidlaw, 38-1 Laidlaw, 39-1 Laidlaw, 40-1 Laidlaw, 41-1 Laidlaw, 42-1 Laidlaw, 43-1 Laidlaw, 44-1 Laidlaw, 45-1 Laidlaw, 46-1 Laidlaw, 47-1 Laidlaw, 48-1 Laidlaw, 49-1 Laidlaw, 50-1 Laidlaw, 51-1 Laidlaw, 52-1 Laidlaw, 53-1 Laidlaw, 54-1 Laidlaw, 55-1 Laidlaw, 56-1 Laidlaw, 57-1 Laidlaw, 58-1 Laidlaw, 59-1 Laidlaw, 60-1 Laidlaw, 61-1 Laidlaw, 62-1 Laidlaw, 63-1 Laidlaw, 64-1 Laidlaw, 65-1 Laidlaw, 66-1 Laidlaw, 67-1 Laidlaw, 68-1 Laidlaw, 69-1 Laidlaw, 70-1 Laidlaw, 71-1 Laidlaw, 72-1 Laidlaw, 73-1 Laidlaw, 74-1 Laidlaw, 75-1 Laidlaw, 76-1 Laidlaw, 77-1 Laidlaw, 78-1 Laidlaw, 79-1 Laidlaw, 80-1 Laidlaw, 81-1 Laidlaw, 82-1 Laidlaw, 83-1 Laidlaw, 84-1 Laidlaw, 85-1 Laidlaw, 86-1 Laidlaw, 87-1 Laidlaw, 88-1 Laidlaw, 89-1 Laidlaw, 90-1 Laidlaw, 91-1 Laidlaw, 92-1 Laidlaw, 93-1 Laidlaw, 94-1 Laidlaw, 95-1 Laidlaw, 96-1 Laidlaw, 97-1 Laidlaw, 98-1 Laidlaw, 99-1 Laidlaw, 100-1 Laidlaw, 101-1 Laidlaw, 102-1 Laidlaw, 103-1 Laidlaw, 104-1 Laidlaw, 105-1 Laidlaw, 106-1 Laidlaw, 107-1 Laidlaw, 108-1 Laidlaw, 109-1 Laidlaw, 110-1 Laidlaw, 111-1 Laidlaw, 112-1 Laidlaw, 113-1 Laidlaw, 114-1 Laidlaw, 115-1 Laidlaw, 116-1 Laidlaw, 117-1 Laidlaw, 118-1 Laidlaw, 119-1 Laidlaw, 120-1 Laidlaw, 121-1 Laidlaw, 122-1 Laidlaw, 123-1 Laidlaw, 124-1 Laidlaw, 125-1 Laidlaw, 126-1 Laidlaw, 127-1 Laidlaw, 128-1 Laidlaw, 129-1 Laidlaw, 130-1 Laidlaw, 131-1 Laidlaw, 132-1 Laidlaw, 133-1 Laidlaw, 134-1 Laidlaw, 135-1 Laidlaw, 136-1 Laidlaw, 137-1 Laidlaw, 138-1 Laidlaw, 139-1 Laidlaw, 140-1 Laidlaw, 141-1 Laidlaw, 142-1 Laidlaw, 143-1 Laidlaw, 144-1 Laidlaw, 145-1 Laidlaw, 146-1 Laidlaw, 147-1 Laidlaw, 148-1 Laidlaw, 149-1 Laidlaw, 150-1 Laidlaw, 151-1 Laidlaw, 152-1 Laidlaw, 153-1 Laidlaw, 154-1 Laidlaw, 155-1 Laidlaw, 156-1 Laidlaw, 157-1 Laidlaw, 158-1 Laidlaw, 159-1 Laidlaw, 160-1 Laidlaw, 161-1 Laidlaw, 162-1 Laidlaw, 163-1 Laidlaw, 164-1 Laidlaw, 165-1 Laidlaw, 166-1 Laidlaw, 167-1 Laidlaw,

WORLD LEAGUE: Group A (in Curitiba, Brazil): Brazil 2 (12-15, 12-15, 15-4, 15-12, 15-3), in France: United States 3, Italy 3 (15-4, 15-11), Group B (in Tokyo): Netherlands 3, Soviet Union 1 (15-13, 15-15, 15-10, 15-10) (in Groningen) Netherlands 1, Soviet Union 3 (15-17, 15-12, 15-7, 15-8).

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New bid to block Maxwell purchase

Sydney THE National Companies and Securities Commission, Australia's corporate watchdog, will again try to block the sale of a 14.9 per cent stake in Bell Group to Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher.

Mr Henry Bosch, the NCSC chairman, said yesterday that it would lodge a formal application with the Western Australian Federal Court on Wednesday.

Mr Bosch also said he believed the sale may have breached the law and, therefore, needed investigation.

The NCSC failed last week to stop Mr Maxwell buying 48.59 million shares from Mr David Aspinall, Bell Group's managing director.

Only days before the Maxwell sale on April 29, Mr Aspinall bought a 16.7 per cent stake in Bell from the Australian State Government Insurance Commission, for one cent a share.

The NCSC has said the Aspinall purchase was in breach of the takeover rules because of his association with Bond Corp Holdings, Bell's 75 per cent owner, and therefore the sale to Mr Maxwell was invalid.

(Reuters)

Milestone in updating scheme

By Our City Staff

MISS Rosie Brookes, aged 23, a marketing executive of Dowty Maritime, has become the 1,000th participant in the Engineering Council's updating pilot scheme.

The scheme, set up to help engineers and technicians keep up to date and develop their careers, was launched in 1988.

Mr Derek Kingsbury, chairman and chief executive of the Fairway Group, and chairman of the scheme's steering committee, said he was delighted with the progress the pilot scheme was making.

"Our closer working within Europe means that investors are going to take a closer look at the technological profile of companies and that's where continuing education and training of employees will play a major part," he said.

Race with Japan has fine-tuned car-maker's performance

The challenge that is driving Vauxhall



In overdrive: Paul Tosh has presided over one of the most dramatic revivals in the beleaguered British motor industry's history

Cheshire, to produce V6 engines for the luxury end of the range, it could not have made a clearer statement of confidence in its UK subsidiary.

By the end of this year, production at Luton should have increased from 32 units per hour to 40.

This is where the true index of health is to be found, for it is nothing less than a pulse rate in the slowly moving bloodstream of manufacturing. It takes just over a minute for one Cavalier, polished and pristine, to follow another from the end of its birth cycle.

From the way Mr Tosh talks, you might conclude that

his three-and-a-half years in the job and the upturn in Vauxhall's fortunes are linked by nothing more than happy coincidence. The fact is that the company's success stems from an awareness of the Japanese challenge to the European market in the course of the next decade.

He and his senior colleagues are now talking, albeit cryptically, about a new approach to corporate communications. They refer to it as "quality network," but no one is yet saying precisely what this consists of; its outlines remain as vague as some exotic model still under wraps. "It has to do with developing a cultural change," Mr Tosh says, "and

focusing on the people side of the operation. It is about the way in which managers become involved, and how relations are developed not only within the company but also with the suppliers. Perhaps the name is a little misleading, but the purpose is to work towards the establishment of a business philosophy."

He is a car-mad American, tanned, genial and chain-smoking, with 32 years in the industry since he started as a General Motors Institute student with the former Fisher Body Division. Before his appointment at Vauxhall he spent a year as chief executive of GM's Bedford commercial vehicles division at Luton. He

drives a Carlton GSI 3000, a 1954 XK 120 Roadster and a Lotus Turbo Esprit. He is in no doubt that, just as the United States was the theatre of conflict for car-makers in the Eighties, so Europe will be in the Nineties.

At the heart of the Vauxhall phenomenon is an alliance of British skills and American know-how pitted against Nissan, Toyota and Honda. "The Japanese have the capacity to increase their share of the European market from 10 or 11 per cent to 25 per cent," he says. "Look at the United States, where their share is up to 26 per cent. In other countries they have achieved as much as 40 per cent." Does

this mean that Vauxhall is going to introduce Japanese-style company management? "You need to look at who's doing well, and why," he replies, "but our style and our strategy are not copied from anyone."

There are other, more tangible reasons for Vauxhall's resurgence. The success of the 1988 Cavalier, in terms of quality as well as sales, is cited as a turning point. According to production staff, the reception of that model played a vital part in restoring staff morale. In the same year the company implemented a sophisticated new programme of Material Process Control; this

co-ordinated the flow of parts to the plant in such a way as to cut out the accumulation of large stocks and so release valuable floor space for production.

The last four years have also seen a tightening of standards. Every day a random sample of 10 cars completed the previous day is subjected to a rigorous "audit" after which their minutest defects, many of which would not be discernible to the layman's eye, are publicly logged on special boards.

Although attempts are made to trace the errors back to their point of origin, it is the car, rather than the individual, which is in disgrace.

Because of the *amur mirabilis* of 1988 the profit-sharing scheme, which has been technically in place since the 1930s, at last has a more than hypothetical value. With a share-out of nearly £700 to each of Vauxhall's 11,000 employees as a result of last year's figures, the incentives have become substantial. In addition there is a flat-rate productivity payment of nearly £35 a week, calculated on the company's overall output. At present levels, staff stand to make an extra £2,500 a year through the two schemes.

Mr Simon Monk, a foreman in the trim shop, where the fittings are installed into the car bodies, says the prospect of this extra money may have been a significant factor, but it is not of primary importance. "I believe that pride in the product has been the main thing and that the presence of the Japanese has spurred us on," he says.

"They, rather than Ford, have now become the principal target. Another factor, in which we are not unique at Luton, has been the improvement of industrial relations. The workforce may be far smaller than it was 10 years ago, but that has been achieved by natural wastage and not through redundancies.

"Nationalism is probably not the right word to use for what has gone on here. Maybe the best way of expressing it is to say that the British are never more deadly than when coming under attack."

Alan Franks

Court of Appeal

Place of performance of an obligation

Medway Packaging Ltd v Meurer Maschinen GmbH & Co KG

Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson [Judgment May 3]

For the purposes of article 5(1) of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters 1968, "the place of performance of the obligation" referred to the place of performance of the obligation which formed the actual basis of the proceedings.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Meurer Maschinen GmbH & Co KG, from a decision of Mr Justice Hobhouse, who had refused to set aside the service by the plaintiffs, Medway Packaging Ltd, of the writ on the defendants in West Germany.

Article 5 provides: "A person domiciled in a contracting state may, in another contracting state, be sued: (1) in matters relating to a contract, in the courts for the place of performance of the obligation in question..."

Mr Peter Brunner for the

defendants; Mr Duncan Matthews for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE FOX said that the case was concerned with the construction of article 5(1) of the Convention, which was incorporated into English law by the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982. The United Kingdom and West Germany were Convention states.

The plaintiffs sought damages for breach of contract and contended that the place of performance of the obligation in question was the UK. In the points of claim they pleaded, *inter alia*, that the plaintiffs were an English company, the defendants a West German engineering company; by an agreement between them the defendants agreed to appoint the plaintiffs the exclusive distributors of their machinery in the UK; and in breach of the agreement the defendants authorised another company to act as distributors of their machinery in the UK.

It was common ground that the case had to be dealt with on the basis that the plaintiffs had a good arguable case. The judge held that the plaintiffs had shown that they had a good arguable case that they had a distribution agree-

ment with the defendants which was exclusive and that they were entitled to reasonable notice of termination.

He concluded that the obligations of the defendants under the contract were (1) in Germany, to sell goods to the plaintiffs at 15 per cent discount; (2) arguably, during the currency of the agreement, not to sell goods to any other United Kingdom importer; (3) arguably, to give the plaintiffs reasonable notice before terminating the agreement.

Paragraph 3 of Part I of the Convention provided that any question as to the meaning and effect of any provisions of the Convention, if not referred to the European Court, must be determined in accordance with the principles laid down by any relevant decision of the European Court.

In *de Bloos v Bouayer* ([1976] 3 ECR 497) that court made it clear that the obligation to give notice of termination was to be interpreted as an obligation to give notice to the company's place of business in England.

That obligation could reasonably be regarded as the principal obligation in the present case. It was the breach of that obligation which brought the whole contract to an end.

As regards the breach of the obligation of the grantor which corresponds to the contractual right relied upon by the grantee in support of the application, the court found that the obligation was negative; it was an obligation not to supply another English distributor. The negative obligation could be broken either in Germany or in England.

On the other hand, the grant of an exclusive right of distribution in England carried with it an obligation on the part of the grantor to act in England and Germany as to respect fully the rights of the grantee under the distributorship agreement.

In the circumstances, it could not be said that the contract for the exclusive distributorship was wholly performable by the defendants either in England or in Germany. The judge realistically concluded that it was as much performable in the one country as in the other.

His Lordship saw no reason to interfere with the decision of the judge.

Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Hedleys, Middleton Potts.

Cunard seaman cannot bring unfair dismissal case

Wood v Cunard Line Ltd

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Farquharson [Judgment May 2]

Where a merchant seaman had been engaged in Southampton to work on board a British registered vessel solely as a crew member in the Caribbean and South America, his employment was "wholly outside Great Britain" within the meaning of section 141(5)(a) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 and he was in consequence excluded from bringing a complaint of unfair dismissal.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by Mr Keith Wood from the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Wood, Mr S. Springer and Mr K. M. Young) ([1989] 1 All ER 398).

which had upheld the decision of the industrial tribunal that it had no jurisdiction to hear his complaint that he had been unfairly dismissed by his employers, Cunard Line Ltd. The court found that the seaman's employment was "wholly outside Great Britain" within the meaning of section 141(5)(a) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 and he was in consequence excluded from bringing a complaint of unfair dismissal.

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THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that when the employee was engaged to work on board the vessel was used entirely in the Caribbean cruise trade and did not come to the United Kingdom.

The engagement took effect in Southampton in the sense that he was given air tickets to join the ship and was paid the appropriate rate during his air trip. On arrival he signed his articles in the usual way.

On each occasion when he went on leave, he signed off articles and came back on articles when he rejoined the ship at the end of his leave. Those leaves were with one exception taken in the United Kingdom.

While he was entitled to take his leave where he liked, each time he was given £250 representing, one assumed, the

air fare from the Caribbean to England.

Subsequently he was dismissed in circumstances which he claimed were unfair and contrary to section 54 of the 1978 Act. The employers contended that section 54 was excluded by section 141.

Sir Godfrey Le Quesne submitted that "employment" meant employment in the sense of the relationship between employer and employee, beginning with the first day of work on board and extending until the dismissal. He referred to the various sections in the 1978 Act where the terms "employment", "work" and "job" were used.

His Lordship accepted that "employment" was *prima facie* apt to describe the legal relationship between an employer and an employee, "contract of employment" was merely the contract creating that relationship; "work" was the service rendered by the employee under that contract and "job" was "the nature of the work which he is employed to do in accordance with his contract and the capacity and place in which he is so employed" (see section 151(1)).

Sir Godfrey had rightly drawn attention to the contrast in section 141(5) between references to "works" which occurred in subsections (1) and (2) where the employee ordinarily worked outside Great Britain and the use of "work on board a ship" in the last part of subsection (5) contrasted with "employment" in paragraph (a).

He submitted that therefore something different was meant from the work done on board

the ship or the period of employment when the employee was working on board the ship. It had to extend to the period when he was travelling from Southampton to join the ship and when he was on leave.

In his Lordship's judgment that was not correct. The words "the employment" in their context meant "that employment", namely, the employment to which reference had just been made in the same sentence where it said "a person employed to work on board a ship registered in the United Kingdom". What one therefore looked at was whether the employment was wholly on board a ship or wholly outside Great Britain.

Sir Godfrey had submitted that the employment to work on board the ship began at Southampton, which was of course right. But in the present context the true view was that Parliament intended to refer to that part of the employment which related to working on board the ship.

The subsection dealing with seamen and the exception had been introduced to deal with their special position. There was nothing special about the position of a seaman travelling to join the ship.

On his Lordship's construction there could be no doubt on the facts that the employee was employed wholly outside Great Britain. He would accordingly dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Farquharson agreed.

Solicitors: Stegall, Palmer; Lovell White Durrant.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Rate support grant figures final even if incorrect

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Merton London Borough Council

Before Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Brooke [Judgment May 2]

Figures submitted by a local authority to the Secretary of State for the Environment under the Rates Support Grants Act 1988 were final, whether those figures were correct or incorrect.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in giving reasons for its dismissal on February 23 of an application for judicial review brought by the London Borough of Merton against the decision of the Secretary of State made on December 13, 1988 that the applicant's block grant entitlement for 1985/6 be calculated on the basis of its estimate of total expenditure dated July 31, 1987.

Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Rates Support Grants Act 1988 provides:

"(2) Where an amount estimated as an English local authority's total expenditure in relation to the year was submitted to the secretary of state by the authority—(a) before July 7, 1988, and (b) in response to a requirement made under section 65 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980) in April 1986 the relevant amount is ... the amount submitted."

Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr Timothy Woods for the council; Mr John Laws for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said that the rate support grant system had vexed the courts on a number of occasions. The vexation might now cease because as from the financial year 1990/1 the system was replaced by the revenue support grant system.

There were two critical elements in the calculation of the amount of entitlement of any particular authority under the rate support system which were "total expenditure" and "relevant expenditure".

In broad terms relevant expenditure was expenditure to be defrayed from the particular authority's rate fund reduced by certain specified sums. Total expenditure was derived from relevant expenditure.

Reductions from relevant expenditure and adjustments to total expenditure were set out by the secretary of state in the Rates Support Grant Report or Supplementary Reports under the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980.

In the third supplementary report for 1985/6 the secretary of state specified that the part of the rate income attributable to the London Regional Transport levy should not be an adjustment addition, that is, it should not serve to increase the relevant expenditure figure.

Due to an error in the applicant's financial department there was included in the figure for total expenditure for 1985/6 the amount attributable to the London Regional Transport levy.

The effect of the error was that the London borough stood to be deprived of about £8,000,000 by way of grant. That was equivalent to a rate of some 27p in the £ or a £65 addition to the community charge.

In his Lordship's judgment, the case was to be resolved by reference to the Rates Support Grants Act 1988. Laws submitted that the manifest purpose of the Act was to achieve complete finality for all English authorities' total figures for the years 1985/6 to 1988/9 by reference to amounts reduced to writing before July 7, 1988.

Mr Laws said that the statutory provision in paragraph 1 of the Schedule to the 1988 Act made the amount submitted determinative. He said that whether the figure was correct or incorrect was now immaterial and that whether there was an error in the submission was now immaterial.

His Lordship found that the purpose of the legislation was obvious and was to secure finality. There was a further consideration which would mean that his Lordship would reach that conclusion although he did not rely on it.

If the borough's figure was open to re-examination and re-determination it would require an adjustment of all block grants payable for the year 1985/6. That was because the amount of money available for distribution for that year was fixed and could not be re-opened.

Mr Justice Brooke delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mr Peter G. Mayes, Morden; Treasury Solicitor.

Telephoned correction ineffective

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Gillingham Borough Council

Before Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Brooke [Judgment May 2]

Despite the fact that a local authority's incorrect expenditure figures had been corrected as a result of telephone conversation, the incorrect figure was the one on which the rate support grant was calculated, as the correction had not been acknowledged in writing by the Department of the Environment.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in giving reasons for its dismissal on February 23 of an application for judicial review brought by Gillingham Borough Council against the decision of the Secretary of State for the Environment given by letter dated March 22, 1989 refusing to review and correct his calculation under section 66 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980.

Paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to the Rates Support Grants Act 1988 provides: "(2) Where an amount estimated as a local

authority's total expenditure in relation to the year was submitted to the secretary of state, the relevant amount is ... the amount submitted."

This paragraph applies where—(a) the authority's expenditure figures were submitted to the secretary of state in writing, and (b) the authority's expenditure figures were submitted to the secretary of state in writing, and (c) the authority's expenditure figures were submitted to the secretary of state in writing, and (d) the authority's expenditure figures were submitted to the secretary of state in writing, and (e) the authority's expenditure figures were submitted to the secretary of state in writing, and (f) the authority's expenditure figures were submitted to the secretary of state in writing, and (g) the authority's expenditure figures were submitted to the secretary of state in writing, and (h) the authority's expenditure figures were submitted to the secretary of state in writing, and (i) the authority's expenditure figures were submitted to the secretary of state in writing, and (j) the authority's expenditure figures were submitted to the secretary of state in writing, and 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Retailers fall short in transatlantic leap

Gillian Bowditch explains how British companies trying to find their feet in the US have often found the experience hazardous

THE perception of Britain as a nation of shopkeepers and the US as one of consumers suggests that British retailers making the transatlantic leap are assured of instant riches. But few British retailers have had a happy or profitable experience courting the American consumer.

Given the uniformity of the experience, the problems faced by British retailers in the US are surprisingly diverse. The reasons for making the move are relatively simple. America is the largest single market in the world and British retailers who have either saturated the British market or believe they have a unique concept or product are often seduced by the sheer potential of the US.

The similarities between the two countries are, on the face of it, more obvious than the differences. The common language, the fact that Americans take Christmas even more seriously than we do, and similar cultures suggest British retailers are guaranteed a relatively easy ride. But for us to love their films and them to love our Royal family is not enough.

The main problem many UK retailers experience is often the factor that drew them to the US in the first place. The size of the market means that enormous resources are needed in order to make a proper impact. British retailers frequently underestimate the funds needed to establish a presence.

The second problem is location. British retailers who have tried to build up a chain of US shops from scratch, such as Ties Rack, Sock Shop, Pentos's Athena or John Menzies' Early Learning Centres have almost all faced the problem of the US malls.

Mr Ranald Noel-Paton,

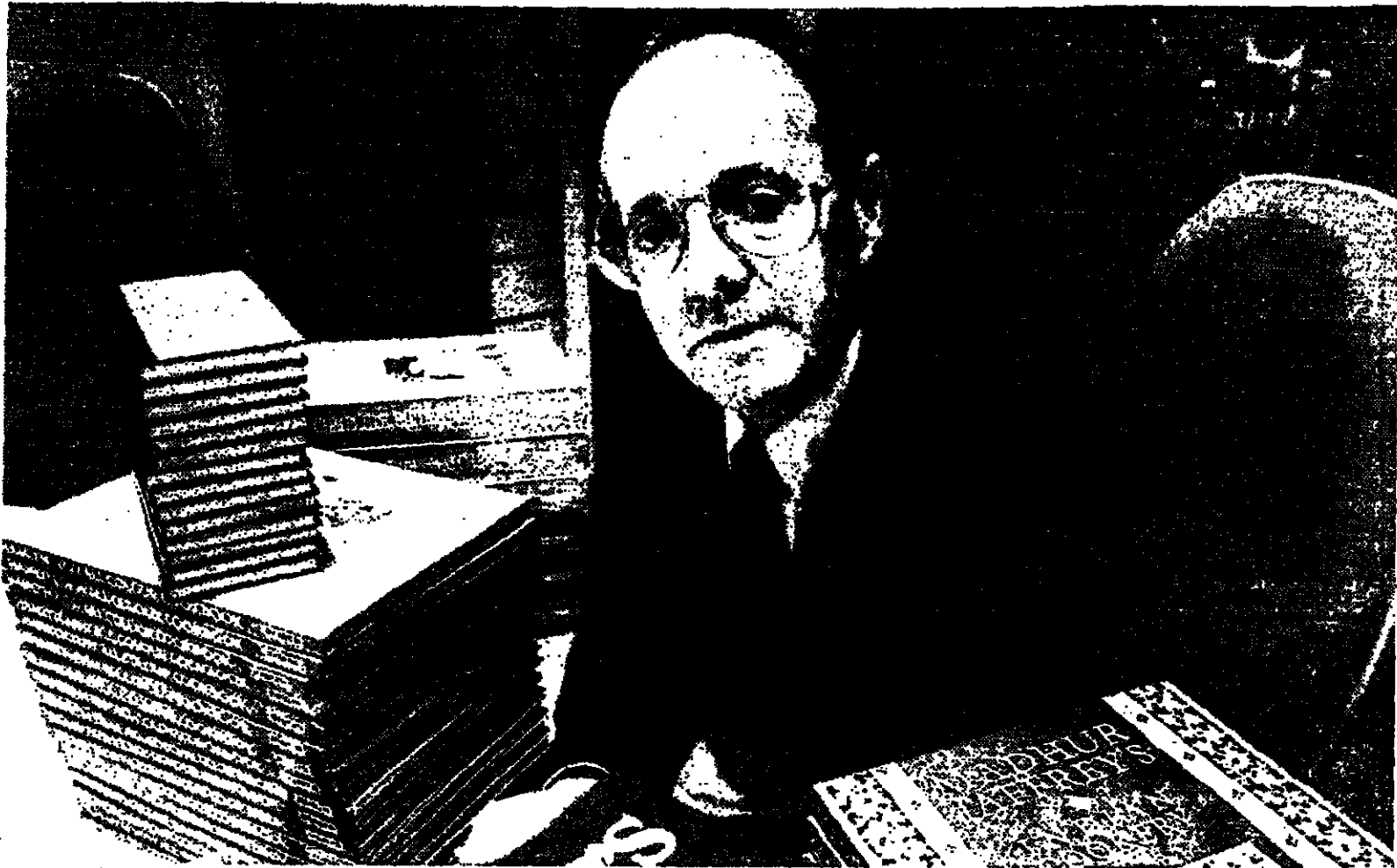
chief executive of John Menzies, said: "The US is not a country with a high street. Shopping takes place in covered shopping malls. In the UK, Early Learning Centres are extremely successful in the high street. But in the US, the shops are in malls where there is no passing traffic. The mall has to market itself as a destination, which they do with varying degrees of success. In the event of a sharp economic downturn, the traffic in the malls tails off significantly."

Mr Terry Maher, chairman and chief executive of Pentos, said that in the US, landlords have more control over retailers than in Britain, right down to shop designs and the look of the windows. Part of the rent is based on a percentage of turnover which means that landlords will put retailers they know well and which have high turnovers in the prime sites. "What happens is that the unknowns, often the UK retailers, are offered the worst space. In some malls, the UK retailer, Early Learning Centre and Athena would be next door to one another."

Mr Noel-Paton agrees that landlords dictating to shops is a real problem. "Our Early Learning Centres are required to stay open until 10pm in some malls, which is ridiculous, as the whole concept is based on involving the children and letting them play with the toys in the shops. For the last four hours of every day, the shops are empty but we still have to pay wages and heat shops."

Another problem is population density. In the US, the population is more lightly spread than in Britain.

Even in the prime sites in the best malls, retailers need to get the merchandise right. Mr Maher pointed out that the US, outside New York, Los



Different tastes: Terry Maher, Pentos chairman and chief executive, says 20 per cent of Athena's British products are not acceptable in the US

Anges and San Francisco, is extremely conservative. He said: "About 20 to 30 per cent of Athena's product in the UK would not be acceptable in the US. Tastes are different. Even in a big city like Chicago, our more racy posters and cards would not sell."

Mr Maher said that while the nine Athena shops were not profitable, Athena has an extremely profitable wholesale business supplying US retailers. "Having the shops helped us to focus our product offer to US retailers," he says.

Mr Noel-Paton said ELC's product offer in the US is also different from its British offer. "Spelling is different, so all the books have to be reprinted and children in the US have different heroes," he said.

"Postman Pat is a total stranger in the US."

Fashion retailers find that their UK product does not always transfer across the water. Climate and tastes are different.

The size of the operation is also extremely important. The bigger the chain, the more muscle a retailer has with the landlords and the quicker it can build up brand loyalty. A retailer with 1,000 shops can afford to have 10 per cent underperforming, one with 100 cannot.

Yet another problem is competition. US retailers are prepared to be aggressive on pricing and copy-cat shops are a reasonably common phenomenon as Sock Shop discovered. Two or three different

sock retailers opened up on the back of Sock Shop.

Mr Bill Gilmour, a retail consultant with Price Waterhouse, believes UK retailers make the fundamental mistake of lifting and transporting a successful concept in the UK to the US or Europe. "Often they don't look at the US market to see what works and then apply their skills. They are too often product-led rather than market-led," he said.

One example of a retailer whom Mr Gilmour believes has been market-led in the US is Ratners, the jewellery chain. "If Ratners had exported its concept of selling cheap jewellery to the US, it would not have worked. Instead he [Gerald Ratner] looked at the US

market, found a chain which was working well, had excellent management and a desire to expand, and bought it. Then he applied his buying skills and, as a result, has been very successful."

The depth of management and the amount of management time needed to move successfully into the US is another inhibiting factor. Even British groups perceived to have strong management have not always succeeded in the US.

The logistical problems are also enormous. The difficulties in transporting fresh food across such a huge country is one of the reasons Marks and Spencer has not yet developed its ready meals in King's Super Markets, its US

chain of food stores. Companies often find it difficult to source the US and the UK from the same supplier.

Franchising may be a more successful route for British retailers. It is a path Body Shop has successfully chosen and it means that some of the costs and some of the risks are cut.

Many UK retailers are now choosing partners for their expansion in Europe, partly because European takeovers can be difficult to do but partly because of the experiences of themselves and others in the US. The sorry plight of many UK retailers in America has taught them that braving markets overseas, no matter how attractive they look from a British perspective, can be a hazardous business.

Hopes of ending GATT deadlock

From Peter Gullford Brussels

THE European Community's most senior farm official has said that with sufficient political will, the EC and the United States could break their acrimonious deadlock over farm subsidies.

It is the latest sign that both sides are intensifying their efforts to compromise and end the months of bitter rhetoric which have been largely responsible for bringing the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations to the brink of collapse.

The GATT round, due to finish in December, is currently grounded over transatlantic disagreements on just how and how far to cut back the subsidies paid to farmers. Mr Ray MacSharry, EC Farm Commissioner, declared that "the time for ideological confrontations and political stances is passed." Ritual accusations of foot-dragging in the GATT talks should end, he added.

Mr MacSharry's comments closely followed a warning given by his compatriot, Mr Gerry Collins, the Irish foreign minister and president of the EC Council.

Mr Collins said during a news conference held jointly with Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, that "time was not on our side" in the GATT talks.

Reflecting this urgency, it was agreed during top-level talks in Washington last week that negotiators should meet fortnightly to thrash out an acceptable framework for farm reform.

Further signs of optimism have come from the US government, whose farm secretary, Mr Clayton Yeutter, said that the US was "picking up positive vibes from Western Europe" on its plans to reduce farm support by converting non-tariff barriers into tariffs.

Mr MacSharry warmed to the idea yesterday, while insisting that all measures which distort farm trade, ranging from protectionist measures against imports to straight subsidies to farmers, should be included in the equation.

Europe and the US are also edging towards agreement on common standards for plant and animal health, frequently used as a form of disguise for trade protection.

The world's two largest trading blocs are still at loggerheads over export subsidies, which enable the Community to compete on low-price world markets despite the much higher cost of farm produce at home.

Mr MacSharry defended the Community's right to maintain its dual pricing system, calling instead for "more imaginative solutions" than the total abolition of export payments.

The success of the Uruguay Round, he said, will depend not on whether but on how subsidies are progressively cut worldwide.

Even here he was optimistic. "As long as we are genuinely discussing reduction of support and not elimination of support, there is scope for compromise," he said.

His prime concern during the next seven months will be to avoid setting the Community's farmers—who outnumber those in the US by more than five to one—down the river by agreeing measures which cut farm support too far or too fast.

Green tips for share buyers

By Jon Ashworth

A NEW list of "best buys" in Green investment has been published by a City private client broker—on recycled paper. Belsco International and the North American Gas Investment Trust are just two shares which should benefit from the Green movement, says Henderson Crosthwaite.

The growing demand for services which help the environment should, in turn, help boost the shares. Other tips include Halma, concerned with tackling pollution, and Allwaste, a US company which treats industrial waste.

But the firm gave warning that investors may have to wait before their shares take off. Mr Eric Hathorn, the director, said the "green" market may remain in limbo for two or three years.

He gave warning that many so-called environmental funds were often nothing of the kind. They either confused environmental and ethical considerations or recommended shares with little link to Green issues.

A report to be published by Environmental Data Services in a few weeks was likely to take such funds to task. Mr Hathorn added, the Jupiter Tarbutt Merlyn ecology fund and the International Green Investment Trust were likely to be the most responsible choices.

Suppliers 'at risk' in run-up to 1992

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor

SUPPLIERS to large companies face a new risk in the run-up to the single European market in 1992, according to a survey just carried out by the Confederation of British Industry.

A fifth of larger companies have told the CBI that they are planning a "substantial" reduction in the number of their suppliers.

Small suppliers are seen to be at risk because fewer than one in 10 seem to be well prepared for the single market. Mr John Banham, director general of the CBI, said: "A vanguard of world-class British companies has breached new markets in Europe. Small firms must nerve themselves to follow. There are worrying discrepancies between best practice and the average."

As the single market approaches, nearly one company in three is planning major changes. Sales and marketing are gaining most attention as UK companies develop their 1992 strategies, according to the survey. More than nine in 10 believe them to be important. Eight out of 10 are changing their sales networks.

Seven out of 10 companies expect to benefit from a single European currency. Four out



Banham: worried

of 10 would like it introduced as soon as possible, but half thought such a currency within five years was a realistic target.

Most of the 450 companies in the survey were unenthusiastic about the EC's ideas for worker participation by regulation. Only one in 10 saw any value in that approach; but eight out of 10 were keen on employee involvement.

Mr Banham said: "Companies believe practicality and flexibility are the hallmarks of the UK's response to the challenges of the single market and they should not be put at risk by dogma from Brussels. The CBI has always believed that participation is best achieved by involving employees in the operations of companies on a voluntary basis."

Exxon oil spill case delayed

Juneau, Alaska

THE criminal trial of Exxon Corp and its unit, Exxon Shipping, on charges stemming from the Exxon Valdez oil spill has been delayed indefinitely by a federal judge, Exxon said.

US District Court Judge Russell Holland granted motions requested by Exxon lawyers to delay the trial, Mr Scott Johnson, an Exxon spokesman said.

The judge agreed with Exxon's lawyers that the case was too complicated to go to trial so soon, Mr Johnson said.

"I think the judge made it clear that there are a lot of complex issues and it wasn't ready to go to trial," he said.

The trial was due to begin on June 18 in Anchorage.

Mr Johnson is unsure when the trial will be held.

The 11 million gallon Exxon Valdez oil spill fouled more than 1,200 miles of Alaska coastline in March last year, and prompted a \$2 billion clean-up.

The charges brought against the company and its transportation arm include violating the Ports and Waterways Safety Act, the Dangerous Cargo Act, the Clean Water Act, the Refuse Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If convicted on all counts, Exxon will face fines of up to \$700 million. (Reuters)

Court ruling hits SEC's insider trading powers

From John Durie, New York

THE US Securities and Exchange Commission has had its insider trading powers thrown into doubt by a US court ruling.

The Circuit Court of Appeals in New York overturned an insider trading conviction against Mr Robert Chestman, a stockbroker.

Mr Chestman began serving a two-year prison term last June, after earlier courts found he behaved illegally by acting on a tip from a client, Mr Keith Loeb, that the Waldbaum grocery chain was about to be taken over by the S and P retail chain.

Mr Loeb was married to the daughter of Mrs Shirley Wilkin, a large shareholder in Waldbaum and the sister of Mrs Ira Waldbaum, who was president of the company.

The issue was whether Mr Chestman, as a fourth-hand tippee, breached the insider trading laws.

Charges Miner said: "Although Chestman was aware that Loeb was a member of the Waldbaum family and may well have gathered that the definite and accurate information furnished by Loeb was not generally available, there simply is no evidence he knew Loeb was breaching a confidential relationship by impart-

ing the information to him."

The decision throws into doubt SEC rule 14c-3 which makes it a crime to trade on misappropriated information involving a takeover offer even if the defendant is not violating a fiduciary duty by making a trade.

The rule was extensively used by the SEC in its Wall Street crackdown and the ruling is a considerable blow to its powers.

Mr Thomas Newkirk, the chief litigation counsel for the SEC, said yesterday: "We're very disappointed and are evaluating the decision."

"I think it's going to require us to evaluate all the insider trading investigations that involve similar relationships to see whether they are cases that are worth pursuing."

The decision underlines the fragile nature of insider trading investigations, but the SEC has been successful in its campaign primarily because it has managed to talk potential defendants into admitting guilt before cases go for a full court trial.

This was the case with the former Drexel Burnham Lambert takeover adviser Mr Dennis Levine whose guilty plea in 1986 set off the chain which saw Mr Ivan Boesky plead

guilty soon after. Before these convictions the theory on Wall Street was that it was very difficult to prove an insider trading charge because the government had to prove that a trader used the information and that he knew the information had been wrongly leaked from the company or its advisers.

By actually pursuing an appeal to his conviction, Mr Chestman has set the SEC back on its feet.

Mr Harvey Pitt, a defence lawyer in Washington, said of the Chestman decision: "It seems to seriously emasculate Rule 14c-3."

The SEC is considering its options which include a further appeal and possible legislative amendments.

The whole concept of insider trading laws has often been criticized as being meaningless because, by definition, the stock market is based on inside information and someone's success depends on just how well connected and well informed they are.

This is distinct from cases of pure fraud where people in receipt of confidential information willingly and knowingly break this confidence for their own benefit.

REPORTING THIS WEEK

BP first-quarter profits expected to fall

AS Mr Robert Horton settles into the chairman's seat at British Petroleum, the oil company will reveal its first-quarter results on Thursday.

The figures will be boosted by disposal profits from the sale of North Sea assets to Oryx Energy. Despite the benefits of a higher oil price, margins for the chemicals business have been declining, which will probably lead to a fall in profits.

Mr Chris Rowland at Barclays de Zoete Wedd expects net income of £370 million in the first quarter, compared with £381 million on a replacement cost basis and £608 million on an historical cost basis. Market forecasts range from £320 million to £460 million.

TODAY

Interim: Associated Paper Industries, Cronite Group, Honover Group, MMT Computing, OJMC Group, Tipton Edgington Group, UK Land.

Final: Ambrose Inv Trst, Bayer AG, El Oro Mining & Exploration Co, Exploration Co, Hay (Norman), Jackson Group, Jarvis, London Finance & Inv Group, Mezzanine Cap & Inv Trst, Parkland Textile (Hedge) Western.

Economic statistics: Credit business (March), retail sales (March - final).

TOMORROW

Brent Walker, Mr George Walker's property and leisure group, is expected to turn in £65 million final pre-tax profits, compared with £41.7 million last time, says Mr Gordon Jones at Panmure Gordon. This is at the top end of expectations ranging from £45 million to £71 million.

Analysts expect interim pre-tax profits at Bibby J & Sons, the industrial and agricultural group, to climb from £15.9 million to £16.5 million.

Trafalgar House, the construction to shipping and hotels group chaired by Sir Nigel Brookes, will be affected by the downturn in property development and housebuilding in Britain.

Residential property volumes have declined, but margins are thought to have held up well and estimated operating profits are expected to fall from £67 million to £55 million. News is awaited on the state of the commercial property division, which accounts for about one third of the group's profits and where life may have become more difficult.

Mr Andrew Page at County NatWest has pencilled in £118 million pre-tax profits for the



Horton: settling in at BP

half year, compared with £113.8 million last time. Market forecasts range from £110 million to £120 million.

Interim: Bibby J & Sons, Smith-Kline Beecham (1st quarter), Tison Higgs, Trafalgar House.

Final: Brent Walker, Caledonian Robey & Co, HI-TEC SPORTS, RAV Information Systems NV, Telios Higgs.

THURSDAY

Retailing business has suffered at Sear's, the UK's largest footwear retailer.

Operating profits from footwear are expected to fall from £106.5 million to about £80 million, with speciality retail-

ing slipping from £71 million to an estimated £59 million. Freemans may have bucked the mail order trend to improve operating profits from £26.6 million to £28 million.

Housebuilding profits are expected to slump from £32 million to £15 million, although property development should improve from £21.6 million to £27.5 million.

Miss Sara Carter at BZW has pencilled in £205 million final pre-tax profits, against £274 million.

BOC, the industrial gases and healthcare group, will benefit from continued strong demand for gases, which account for about two-thirds of operating profits.

Interim pre-tax profits are expected to rise from £151.6 million to £165 million, according to Mr Ian John at County NatWest. The second interim dividend of 9.5p, up 14 per cent, has already been announced.

Miss Lindsay Russell at BZW expects half-year pre-tax profits at Stakis, the Scottish-based hotel and leisure group, to slip from £11.5 million to £11.2 million, partly due to higher interest charges. Earnings per share should rise from 3.4p to 4p.

Interim: BOC Group, British Petro-

leum Co, Circumvent Higgs, Fundinvest, General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corp, Radio Clyde, Sandwick AB, Stakis.

FRIDAY

Some analysts expect a quiet start to the year at Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and consumer products group.

The group is expected to turn in pre-tax profits of £370 million in the first quarter, compared with £348 million, according to Mr Tim Potter at Smith New Court. Market forecasts range from £355 million to £370 million.

The figures will reflect some volume growth, the consolidation of acquisitions and some improvement in margins.

Interim: Glenheim Exhibitions Group, McCarthy & Stone, Unilever Plc (1st).

Final: Merchant Manufacture Est-ate Co, Radamec Group, Whitbread Inv Co.

Economic statistics: Usable steel production (April), retail prices index and tax and price index (April), housing starts and completions (March).

Philip Pangalos

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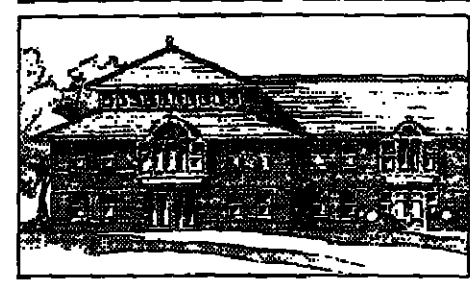
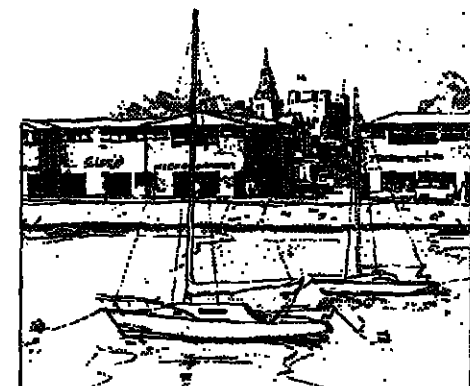
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Executive Editor
David Brewerton
CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6610 (+0.0245)
W German mark
2.7774 (+0.0347)
Exchange index
87.6 (+0.9)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1696.8 (+38.1)
FT-SE 100
2162.2 (+55.6)
USM (Datastream)
130.16 (-2.23)

Deal over Ordnance defended by BAe

By Martin Waller

BRITISH Aerospace has defended the near-monopoly it negotiated with the Ministry of Defence for Royal Ordnance after it bought the munitions maker from the Government in April 1987.

But it has refused to give details of the benefits the deal brought to the company or how much work has been won from the Ministry by Ordnance under BAe's ownership. BAe, which drew fire for the £38 million in "sweeteners" it obtained from the Government in connection with its purchase of Rover, confirmed it received guarantees from the Ministry that Ordnance could rely on 80 per cent of its orders for munitions.

This deal was to be worth £400 million to Ordnance over five years. In return the Government required an annual reduction in the price the company charged for its products. Such price reductions, thought to be about 5 per cent a year, were defended as "very good value" by the defence minister responsible for procurement, Mr Timothy Sainsbury, in July 1988.

In fact they were the result of tough bargaining between BAe and the Ministry, which had been looking for something like a 60-40 split in Ordnance's favour.

BAe claims the 80-20 deal had the effect of introducing competition into the munitions industry after Ordnance's monopoly position while in government ownership. "There wasn't a UK supplier who could supply the same amount of munitions for the Government," it said.

But Ordnance's commanding market position even after it had been sold would have made it difficult for other companies to enter that market. BAe will not say how much work Ordnance has gained from the Ministry under its ownership, but reports have suggested more than £250 million.

B&C considers appointing 'company doctors'



Davies: name considered

By Angela Mackay

EXECUTIVES at British & Commonwealth, the beleaguered financial services group, have been holding emergency talks with so-called company doctors whose appointment may help to reverse dwindling City confidence in the company's future.

Sources at one of B&C's leading subsidiaries said that among the names considered was that of Mr David Davies, the chairman of Johnson Matthey and formerly chairman of Hill Samuel, the merchant bank.

The appointment of the specialist fraud unit at Stephenson Harwood, the legal firm, to examine what may be large-scale fraud at Atlantic Computers, B&C's computer leasing arm, emphasizes the similarities between the plight of B&C and that of Ferranti, the defunct electronics and defence company.

Ferranti sold £400 million of assets and appointed Mr Eugene Anderson as chairman and chief executive to lead the smaller, chastened group forward.

B&C, however, run by chief executive Mr John Gunn, and where Sir Peter Thompson recently moved in as chairman, may not have the same luxury of time to search for a saviour.

Tomorrow, holders of B&C's 7% per cent convertible unsecured loan stock, nominally worth £320 million, are meeting to discuss immediate repayment. On Friday, B&C issued a statement in an attempt to buy more time.

The company assured the stock market that it was well advanced in formulating proposals designed to extricate the group from its difficulties.

The Bank of England, which oversees

B&C's money broking and banking activities, has been very supportive so far but has no jurisdiction over the disaffected bond holders. If they seek immediate repayment at their meeting tomorrow, there seems little chance of B&C avoiding being pushed into receivership itself.

Like Ferranti, which paid top dollar for ISC, a US defence group, B&C paid a high price when it spent more than £400 million buying Atlantic three years ago. That deal, and the information used in calculating the price, will be central to the Stephenson Harwood investigation.

Last month, the company said it had to write off its entire investment in Atlantic, which had risen to £550 million, in addition to raising £750 million from asset disposals.

While much has been said about waste and extravagance at Atlantic Computers, the

appointment of Stephenson Harwood is a sign of growing concern by B&C and Price Waterhouse, Atlantic's administrators.

B&C and Price Waterhouse have already sacked the majority of Atlantic's British staff. Mr David McCormick, Atlantic's chief executive, resigned two weeks ago. He had been suspended from his duties at the end of March.

Mr McCormick said he had warned B&C's board about Atlantic's financial problems at least a year ago.

As revealed in *The Times*, Mr McCormick came into Atlantic Computers via a takeover of his company, ICA of the Netherlands, in 1986. Before that, Mr McCormick was involved with another computer leasing company, ICC, which went into receivership in 1981.

ICA was an associated company of ICC.

Inflation fuels G7 fears for interest rates

From Rodney Lord, Economics Editor, Washington

FINANCE ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven leading industrial countries meeting yesterday in Washington agreed that inflationary pressures in the world economy were still substantial.

Concern centres mainly on the US, where recent indicators suggest that the economy is still buoyant, and on Germany where economic and monetary union between the two halves may give a surge to demand.

Higher interest rates do not appear to be regarded as imminent but they may prove necessary later in the year.

Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, President of the Bundesbank, said he believed fears that German monetary union would lead to higher interest rates were overdone, but he stressed that high interest rates were necessary.

He told journalists ahead of the private meeting of the G7 ministers and officials: "I believe that this worry that the union of the two German states... has to lead to higher interest rates is somewhat exaggerated."

But the current high level of interest rates worldwide was in line with current economic fundamentals including inflation and economic growth. Herr Pöhl said that credit costs had already been rising, partly as a reaction to rising global inflationary fears. Economic growth was strong in Europe and West Germany and high real interest rates were appropriate. "I do not see what is negative about

this," Herr Pöhl said. The currently high interest rates were a way of keeping inflation in check.

The G7 reviewed developments in foreign exchange markets since their last meeting a month ago in Paris with some satisfaction. Following the April communiqué, in which they threatened to resist an "undesirable" decline in the yen, the Japanese currency has stabilized.

The other main item on G7's agenda is the package of compromises needed to finalize an increase in the financial resources of the International Monetary Fund.

Speaking over the weekend M Michel Camdessus, the Fund managing director, indicated he thought the size of the increase in quotas (subscriptions) would be in the range 50 to 70 per cent. The increase would be linked with a number of reforms to the treatment of arrears in the Fund, for which the US in particular has been pressing.

Changes on arrears would include an intermediate stage between full membership and expulsion and possible sales of gold to help restore the financial credibility of borrowers in arrears. M Camdessus vigorously denied that he was "soft" on arrears. "Nothing is worse for the international community than arrears."

The compromise proposed on the timing of the next quota increase is that both the ninth quota increase (which is now being finalized) and the 10th—in theory due in 1993—should be amalgamated. The 11th increase would then be due in 1995. M Camdessus

said he was "reasonably certain" that the question of ranking would be resolved. Britain has so far declined to give up any more of its quota increase in order to meet French objections to being pushed down from fourth to fifth as a result of the proposed rise of Japan from fifth to second.

Britain is currently second in the Fund with a quota of 6.9 per cent. Under its proposal, that would fall to 6 per cent leaving it in fourth place. It is conceivable that discussions over the siting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development may come into the bargaining. The main contenders to play host to the bank are London and Paris.

The IMF may be forced to borrow money if a planned increase in quotas falls short of expectations or takes too long to be ratified, M Camdessus said. But he emphasized that plans to sell up to three million ounces of IMF gold as part of the new plan on arrears would only be used as "a last line of defence."

M Pierre Berégovoy, the French finance minister, is to propose a new initiative on Third World debt at today's meeting of the IMF Interim Committee. This would extend the Brady plan, which provides some official support to help restructure commercial bank debt, to a number of other countries.

This proposal is unlikely to meet with much enthusiasm from Britain and a number of other countries which believe that the existing Brady plan should be given more time to prove itself.

Lakeside boost for retail sector

By Matthew Bond



Heading for heights: John Abel, Capital & Counties director, at the Lakeside site

CAPITAL & Counties will open its £350 million shopping centre at West Thurrock, Essex, in October with more than 80 per cent of its retail space let.

The news that the company has let more than 1 million sq ft of space at its Lakeside shopping centre will come as a boost to a retail sector devastated by the sales slump. Recently, there have been stories of shopping centres opening with less than 25 per cent of space let.

Mr John Abel, director, said the Lakeside lettings showed retailers had not boycotted the market, but were being more selective. "There is still some good news around. If it is a quality centre, there is still demand. We hope to be close to fully let when we open."

Lakeside is one of the new generation of "regional shopping centres"—massive mall developments that bring high street shopping to out-of-town locations. Lakeside will have parking for 9,000 cars.

To date only a handful have been built, with the most famous being Gateshead's Metro Centre and North London's Brent Cross.

Four anchor tenants at Lakeside—Marks and Spencer, Debenhams, John Lewis and House of Fraser—were announced last year. The latest round of lettings brings in 140 different retailers.

Burton Group will be taking a number of units, Sir Ralph Halpern, the chairman, said: "The Burton Group will have a major presence at Lakeside. With over 1 million square feet, extensive parking facilities and the presence of a mass of the best names in retailing, Lakeside will be the premier shopping centre in the South-east."

Other retailers committed to the centre include Argos, Boots, C&A, Next and WH Smith. Rents are about half those of either Oxford Street or Brent Cross.

The centre boasts a two-level mall, whose length is equivalent to the distance along Oxford Street from Tottenham Court Road to Oxford Circus.

Court victory for California insurers

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

THE three-year campaign in California to gain cheaper car insurance for the state's 17 million motorists has been dealt a potential death blow by the Los Angeles courts.

In a ruling due to be confirmed this week, Judge Miriam Vogel decided in Los Angeles that insurance companies can continue their old ways of setting premiums by postcode, age and marital status. It was this method which prompted accusations of profiteering against the insurers and sparked the campaign for cheaper rates.

Judge Vogel's ruling cuts across Proposition 103, a state law passed in November 1988 calling for lower car insurance rates and change in the way

they are calculated. Mr Harvey Rosenfeld, author of Proposition 103, described the ruling as "a travesty of justice."

Proposition 103 was designed to take insurance rates back to the levels of November, 1987 and then cut them by 20 per cent; and to stop insurance companies basing premiums on addresses, age, sex or marital status. It also limited rate increases to the previous year's inflation rate.

It would have given priority to driving record, annual mileage and years of experience. Rate cuts in inner cities could have totalled more than 20 per cent, but the loss to insurers would have been more than \$800 million.

Team leaves Salomon for own investment boutique

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

MR DON Johnston, who has established Salomon Brothers as the leading investment bank in Spain over the past five years, has taken four colleagues and set up his own investment boutique specializing in southern Europe.

Johnston Associates starts life with \$10 million of equity, of which 60 per cent will be held by the five-man team, and will have access to a further \$25 million. Their outside backer is understood to be a European financial institution, and they number among their friends and former clients Mr Fouad Jaffar, former head of the Kuwait Investment Office.

Mr Johnston has run Salomon's corporate finance and merger and acquisition activities since he set it up in 1984, and has made his reputation in establishing the bank as one of the leading mergers and acquisitions houses in Spain.

His team consists of Mr Sekhar Bahadur, whose clients since moving from New York to London in 1987, have included Isoceles, Banco de Bilbao, Grupo Torres, Arvin Industries and Jefferson Smurfit Group; Mr Antonio Rodriguez-Pina and Mr John Gibbons, all from Salomon's London office, and Mr Antonio Bonchrisiano from the bank's New York headquarters.

Between them, the five claim to have worked on over

200 mergers and acquisitions, many of them in the southern European area. Their biggest deal to date was the \$6.2 billion merger of the Banco de Bilbao and Banco de Vizcaya at the beginning of 1988.

Mr Gibbons said: "It is becoming more and more evident that there is a need for independent financial advice in the corporate field."

Johnston Associates will be operational immediately from its Knightsbridge base in London, and an office in Madrid. The parting with Salomon is said to be amicable, even though the bank will be stealing itself against the loss of many of its southern European clients.

Day of reckoning for bungling banks

By Rodney Hobson

BANK error in your favour occurs only in the world of Monopoly, two accountants discovered. So they have set up Bank Busters, a company that goes through its clients' bank accounts to get charges cut and interest on deposits raised.

Mr David Franks and Mr Lance Blackstone got the idea when auditing the accounts of a nursing home. It looked as if the client had been overcharged about £20,000 for an overdraft. In fact, the bank owned up to overcharging in previous years and refunded £60,000.

Mr Franks and Mr Blackstone reckoned on that basis that their London-based accounting firm of Blackstone Franks could offer a service analysing bank accounts.



Blackstone: on to a winner

interest rate but had charged rates that in some cases were wildly different."

In another case the bank had not bothered to tell a solicitor that it had special arrangements for paying in-

terest on client accounts. The solicitor was losing £12,000 a year.

Another client at the accountancy firm was saved £50,000 a year after negotiations with his bank. In another case Blackstone Franks found 121 errors amounting to £6,000 in the bank's favour.

Errors are spread right across the banking fraternity. Surprisingly, Mr Blackstone says most bank managers do not resent having their errors pointed out. He says: "The general reaction is one of extreme embarrassment. One manager paid for the cost of our services because he was so embarrassed."

Overcharging comes in three forms: errors, failure to advise on the best service

available at the bank, and providing a much more expensive service than that offered at a different bank.

Bank errors rarely work for the benefit of the client. Mr Blackstone says: "The computer seems to be programmed so that any error is in the bank's favour. For example, if an interest rate is agreed for an overdraft the computer will charge a false rate until details are fed in. Sometimes the details are never inputted."

Blackstone Franks also complains of penal charges imposed on overdrafts beyond an agreed facility. Interest rates of 8-10 per cent are not uncommon and charges can even work out at 30 per cent, the accountants say.

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